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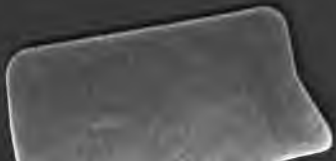
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Prayers & Meditations

1711



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PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS,

COMPOSED BY

SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

WITH A PREFACE,

BY THE

REV. WILLIAM GRESLEY, M.A.,

PREBENDARY OF LICHFIELD.



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TO THE
INHABITANTS OF THE NATIVE CITY OF THE AUTHOR,
THIS EDITION OF HIS

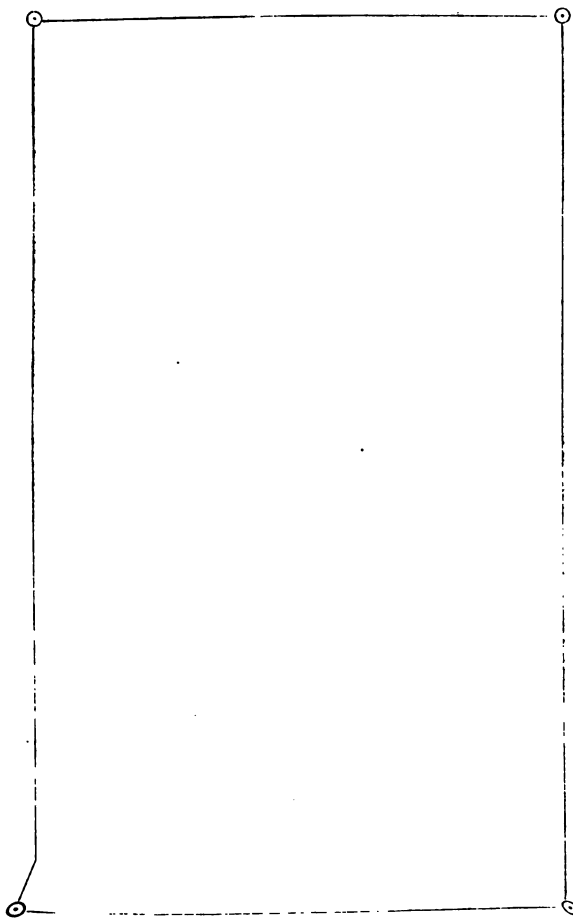
Prayers and Meditations

IS GRATEFULLY AND RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY ONE WHO HAS LIVED

HALF A CENTURY AMONG THEM.

*Litchfield,
January, 1860.*



PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION
IN 1785.

THese posthumous Devotions of Dr. Johnson will be, no doubt, welcomed by the public with a distinction similar to that which has been already paid to his other Works.

During many years of his life, he stately observed certain days* with a religious solemnity; on which, and other occasions, it was his custom to compose suitable Prayers and Meditations; committing them to writing for his own use, and, as he as-

* Viz., New Year's Day; March 28, the day on which his wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson, died; Good Friday; Easter Day; and September the 18th, his own birth-day.

sured me, without any view to their publication. But being last Summer on a visit at Oxford to the Rev. Dr. Adams, Master of Pembroke College, and that gentleman urging him repeatedly to engage in some work of this kind, he then first conceived a design to revise these pious effusions, and bequeath them, with enlargements, to the use and benefit of others.

Infirmities, however, now growing fast upon him, he at length changed this design, and determined to give the Manuscripts, without revision, in charge to me, as I had long shared his intimacy, and was at this time his daily attendant. Accordingly, one morning, on my visiting him, by desire, at an early hour, he put these Papers into my hands, with instructions for committing them to the Press, and with a promise to prepare a sketch of his own life to accompany them. But the performance of this *promise* also was prevented, partly by his

hasty destruction of some private memoirs, which he afterwards lamented, and partly by that incurable sickness which soon ended in his dissolution.

As a Biographer, he is allowed to have excelled without a rival; and we may justly regret, that he who had so advantageously transmitted to posterity the lives of other eminent men, should have been thus intercepted in constructing the narrative of his own. But the particulars of this venerable man's personal history may still, in great measure, be preserved; and the public are authorised to expect them from some of his many friends, who are zealous to augment the monument of his fame by the detail of his private virtues.

That the authenticity of this Work may never be called in question, the original Manuscript will be deposited in the Library of Pembroke College in Oxford. Dr. Bray's associates are to receive the profits of the

First Edition, by the Author's appointment; and any further advantages that accrue will be distributed among his relations.

I have now discharged the trust reposed in me by that friend, whose labours entitle him to lasting gratitude and veneration from the literary, and still more from the Christian world. His Lives of the English Poets are written, as he justly hopes, in such a manner as may tend to the promotion of piety. This merit may be ascribed, with equal truth, to most of his other works; and doubtless to his Sermons, none of which indeed have yet been made public, nor is it known where they are extant; though it be certain, from his own acknowledgment, both in conversation and writing, that he composed many. As he seems to have turned his thoughts with peculiar earnestness to the study of religious subjects, we may presume these

remains would deserve to be numbered among his happiest productions. It is therefore hoped they have fallen into the hands of those who will not withhold them in obscurity, but consider them as deposits, the seclusion of which from general use, would be an injurious diminution of their author's fame, and retrenchment from the common stock of serious instruction.

But the integrity of his mind was not only speculatively shadowed in his writings, but substantially exemplified in his life. His prayers and his alms, like those of the good Cornelius, went up for a continual memorial; and always, from a heart deeply impressed with piety, never insensible to the calls of friendship or compassion, and prone to melt in effusions of tenderness on the slightest incitement.

When, among other articles in his Dictionary, LICHFIELD presents itself to his notice, he salutes that place of his nativity

in these words of Virgil, *Salve, magna parens*. Nor was the salutation adopted without reason: for well might he denominate his parent city great, who, by the celebrity of his name, hath made it so,

Salve, magna parens frugum, *Staffordia* tellus,
Magna virûm.

VIRG. Georg. lib. ii. l. 173.

More decisive testimonies of his affectionate sensibility are exhibited in the following work, where he bewails the successive depredations of death on his relations and friends; whose virtues, thus mournfully suggested to his recollection, he seldom omits to recite, with ardent wishes for their acquittal at the throne of mercy. In praying, however, with restriction,* for these regretted tenants of the grave, he indeed conformed to a practice which, though it has been retained by other

* Our Author informs us, that his Prayers for deceased friends were offered up, on several occasions, *as far as might be lawful for him*, and once with *Preface*

learned members of our Church, her Liturgy no longer admits, and many, who adhere to her communion, avowedly disapprove. That such Prayers are, or may be, efficacious, they who sincerely offer them must believe. But may not a belief in their efficacy, so far as it prevails, be attended with danger to those who entertain it? May it not incline them to carelessness; and promote a neglect of repentance, by inducing a persuasion that, without it, pardon may be obtained through these

of Permission: whence it should seem that he had some doubt concerning the lawfulness of such prayers, though it does not appear that he ever discontinued the use of them. It is also observable, that in his reflections on the death of his wife, and again of Mr. Thrale, he wishes that the Almighty not *may have*, but *may have had*, mercy on them—evidently supposing their sentence to have been already past in the Divine mind. This supposition, indeed, may seem not very consistent with his recommending them to the Divine mercy afterwards. It proves, however, that he had no belief in a state of Purgatory, and consequently no reason for praying for the dead, that could impeach the sincerity of his profession as a Protestant.

vicarious intercessions ? Indeed the doctrine (I speak with deference to the great names that have espoused it) seems inconsistent with some principles generally allowed among us. If, "where the tree falleth, there it shall be,"—if, as Protestants maintain, our state at the close of life is to be the measure of our final sentence,—then prayers for the dead, being visibly fruitless, can be regarded only as the vain oblations of superstition. But of all superstitions, this perhaps is one of the least unamiable, and most incident to a good mind. If our sensations of kindness be intense, those whom we have revered and loved during life, death, which removes them from sight, cannot wholly seclude from our concern. The fondness, kindled by intercourse, will still glow from memory, and prompt us to wish, perhaps to pray, that the valued dead, to whose felicity our friendship can no longer minister, may

find acceptance with Him "who giveth us," and them, "richly all things to enjoy." It is true, for the reason just mentioned, such evidences of our surviving affection may be thought ill-judged: but surely they are generous; and some natural tenderness is due even to a superstition, which thus originates in piety and benevolence.

We see our Author, in one place, purposing with seriousness to remember his brother's dream; in another, owning his embarrassment from needless stipulations; and, on many occasions, noting, with a circumstantial minuteness, the process of his religious fasts. But these peculiarities, if they betray some tincture of the propensity already observed, prove, for the most part, the pious tenour of his thoughts. They indicate a mind ardently zealous to please God, and anxious to evince its alacrity in His service, by a scrupulous observance of more than enjoined duties.

But however the soundness of his principles might, in general be apparent, he seems to have lived with a perpetual conviction that his conduct was defective; lamenting past neglects, forming purposes of future diligence, and constantly acknowledging their failure in the event. It was natural for him, who possessed such powers of usefulness, to consider the waste of his time as a peculiar delinquency; with which, however, he appears to have been far less frequently, and less culpably chargeable, than his own tender sense of duty disposed him to apprehend. That he meritoriously redeemed many days and years from indolence, is evinced by the number and excellence of his Works; nor can we doubt that his literary exertions would have been still more frequent, had not *morbid melancholy*, which, as he informs us, was the infirmity of his life, repressed them. To the prevalence of this infirmity, we may

certainly ascribe that anxious fear, which seized him on the approach of his dissolution, and which his friends, who knew his integrity, observed with equal astonishment and concern. But the strength of religion at length prevailed against the frailty of nature ; and his foreboding dread of the Divine justice, by degrees subsided into a pious trust and humble hope in the Divine mercy.

He is now gone to await his eternal sentence ; and as his life exhibited an illustrious example, so his death suggests an interesting admonition. It concerns us to reflect, that however many may find it impossible to rival his intellectual excellence, yet to imitate his virtues is both possible and necessary to all ; that the current of time now hastens to plunge us in that gulph of death, where we have so lately seen him absorbed, where there is no more place of repentance, and whence,

according to our innocence or guilt, we shall rise to an immortality of bliss or torment.

GEORGE STRAHAN.

ISLINGTON,

August 6, 1785.

PREFACE TO THIS EDITION.

NOTHING so accurately reveals the spiritual state of a man's heart, as a view of his private "Prayers and Meditations." How few would not shrink from the ordeal. How many who stand fair in the world's estimation as men of religion, and even are so in reality, yet if the inward thoughts of their hearts were revealed, would be found to be troubled in soul, and disquieted in spirit. Peace of mind is not always a sure sign of a right mind. Many wicked worldly men are little troubled in spirit from sheer ignorance of the precipice, at the brink of which they stand. They eat, drink, and are merry, without a

thought of their danger. There are also religious errors which lull men in fancied security, and give them peace when there is no peace. They only can have real peace who have fought the good fight, and gained the victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. They who have early won this victory may live peaceful happy days in the fear of God and consciousness of His approval. But to others it happens, through their own fault (and this was Johnson's case), to wage a life-long struggle against in-dwelling sin. In him was exemplified in a remarkable degree the words of S. Paul in the seventh chapter of his Epistle to the Romans. "I know that in me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I *do* I delight in the law of God after the

inner man, but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank GOD through JESUS CHRIST our LORD." Respected, nay, idolized by his own immediate circle, esteemed by the world for his literary attainments, and the great power of his mind, endowed with a kind, upright, and charitable heart—a firm believer in the doctrines of salvation, yet, strange to say, year after year we find him engaged in a perpetual struggle against indolent and self-indulgent habits, which marred his happiness, and rendered him wretched and miserable; yet, sad as the picture is, how infinitely preferable was Johnson's state of mind to that of thousands who live a self-indulgent life *without* this compunction of conscience, or earnest

endeavour after amendment. They, it is to be feared, perish in their sins. But, in his case, we may hope that the tribulation which he endured, was productive, in the end, of a greater mastery over himself, and a closer walk with God.

The following extracts from his Memoranda are consolatory.

“April 6, 1777. On Easter Day I was at church early . . . I was for some time distressed, but at last obtained, I hope from the God of Peace, more quiet than I have enjoyed for a long time. I made no resolution, but as my heart grew lighter, my hopes revived, and my courage increased; and I wrote with my pencil in my Common Prayer Book,

Vita ordinanda.
Biblia legenda.
Theologiæ opera danda.
Serviendum et lætandum.
Scrupulis obsistendum.*

I then went to the altar . . . and passed the afternoon with such calm gladness of mind, as it is very long since I felt before. I came home, and began to read

* The four first lines only are printed in former editions, but the last is found in Johnson's handwriting in his own Prayer Book, which is in the possession of the Publisher of *this Volume*.

the Bible. I passed the night in such sweet uninterrupted sleep as I have not known since I slept at Fort Augustus."

"September 18, [his 73rd birth-day] 1781. I rose, breakfasted, and gave thanks at church for my creation, preservation, and redemption. As I came home I thought I had never begun any period of my life so placidly.

The following is his last prayer.

"Almighty and most merciful Father, I am now, as to human eyes it seems, about to commemorate for the last time the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST, our Saviour and Redeemer. Grant, O LORD, that my whole hope and confidence may be in His merits, and Thy mercy; enforce and accept my imperfect repentance; make this commemoration available to the establishment of my hope, and the enlargement of my charity; and make the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST effectual for my redemption. Have mercy upon me, and pardon the multitude of my offences. Bless my friends; have mercy upon all men. Support me by Thy HOLY SPIRIT in the days of weakness, and the hour of death; and receive me, at my death, to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen."

One cannot but feel a good hope for one that could pray thus.

As to religious opinions, Johnson was a thorough Anglican of the High Church

School, as will be shewn by the following extract from his 7th Sermon, in which he is speaking of the Ancient Fathers.

“With regard to the order and government of the Primitive Church, we may doubtless follow their authority with perfect security: they could not possibly be ignorant of laws executed, and customs practised, by themselves; nor would they, even supposing them corrupt, serve any interests of their own by handing down false accounts to posterity. We are, therefore, to inquire of them the different orders established in the Ministry from the Apostolic ages; the different employments of each, and their several ranks, subordinations, and degrees of authority. From their writings we are to vindicate the establishment of our Church, and by the same writings are those who differ from us, in these particulars, to defend their conduct.

“Nor is this the only, though perhaps the chief use of these writers; for in matters of faith, and points of doctrine, those, at least, who lived in the ages nearest to the Apostles, undoubtedly deserve to be consulted. The oral doctrines, and occasional explications of the Apostles would not be immediately forgotten in the Churches to which they preached, and which had attended to them with the diligence and reverence which their mission and character demanded. Their solution of difficulties, and determination of doubtful questions, must have been treasured up in the memory of their audiences, and transmitted for some time from father to son. Every thing, at least, that was declared by the

inspired teachers to be necessary to salvation must have been carefully recorded; and therefore what we find no traces of in the Scriptures, or the early Fathers, as most of the peculiar tenets of the Romish Church, must certainly be concluded to be not necessary. Thus by consulting first the Holy Scriptures, and next the writers of the Primitive Church, we shall make ourselves acquainted with the will of God; thus shall we discover the good way, and find that rest for our souls, which will amply recompense our studies and inquiries."

It is remarkable that, with this deference to primitive practice, Johnson should have fallen into the lax habit of the day in which he lived of such very infrequent reception of the Holy Communion, as once only in the year. When we observe the great comfort which he usually received from this life-giving ordinance—the strengthening and refreshment of soul which he experienced—we may believe that had he been an habitual communicant, he might have been spared much of the misery and weakness with which his life was clouded.

Another great drawback to Johnson's well-being was the absence of any spiritual

friend to which he might "open his griefs." He does not appear to have formed a close intimacy with any Christian minister. His associates were men of vastly inferior calibre to himself, and disposed rather to revere him as an idol of perfection, than to sympathise with, or aid him in his troubles and imperfections.

Much as we may admire many points of Johnson's character, yet it was not a perfect one. Had he followed out the Church system in detail, and been as good a Christian in practice as he was in theory, he would have been a happier, as well as a better man.

W. GRESLEY.

PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS.

1738.

ON MY BIRTH-DAY.

September $\frac{7}{18}$

O GOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, Father of all mercies, I Thine unworthy servant do give Thee most humble thanks, for all Thy goodness and loving-kindness to me. I bless Thee for my creation, preservation, and redemption, for the knowledge of Thy SON JESUS CHRIST, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. In the days of childhood and youth, in the midst of weakness, blindness, and danger, Thou hast protected me; amidst afflictions of mind, body, and estate, Thou hast supported me; and amidst vanity and wickedness, Thou hast spared me. Grant, O merciful Father, that I may have a lively sense of Thy mercies. Create in me a

contrite heart, that I may worthily lament my sins, and acknowledge my wickedness, and obtain remission and forgiveness, through the satisfaction of **JESUS CHRIST**. And, O **LORD**, enable me, by Thy grace, to redeem the time which I have spent in sloth, vanity, and wickedness ; to make use of Thy gifts to the honour of Thy Name ; to lead a new life in thy faith, fear, and love ; and finally to obtain everlasting life. Grant this, **ALMIGHTY LORD**, for the merits and through the mediation of our most holy and blessed **SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST** ; to whom, with Thee and the **HOLY GHOST**, Three Persons and One God, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

Transcribed June 26, 1768.

This is the first solemn prayer of which I have a copy. Whether I composed any before this, I question.

1744-5.

January 1.

A **LMIGHTY** and everlasting God, in whose hands are life and death, by whose will all things were created, and by

whose providence they are sustained, I return Thee thanks that Thou hast given me life, and that Thou hast continued it to this time; that Thou hast hitherto forbore to snatch me away in the midst of sin and folly, and hast permitted me still to enjoy the means of grace, and vouchsafed to call me yet again to repentance. Grant, O merciful LORD, that Thy call may not be in vain; that my life may not be continued to increase my guilt, and that Thy gracious forbearance may not harden my heart in wickedness. Let me remember, O my God, that as days and years pass over me, I approach nearer to the grave, where there is no repentance; and grant that, by the assistance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, I may so pass through this life, that I may obtain life everlasting, for the sake of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

1747-8.

January 1.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast not yet suffered me to fall into the grave, grant that I may so remem-

ber my past life, as to repent of the days and years which I have spent in forgetfulness of Thy mercy, and neglect of my own salvation ; and so use the time which Thou shalt yet allow me, as that I may become every day more diligent in the duties which in Thy providence shall be assigned me ; and that, when at last I shall be called to judgment, I may be received as a good and faithful servant into everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

1749-50.

January 1, after 3 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose will I was created, and by whose providence I have been sustained, by whose mercy I have been called to the knowledge of my REDEEMER, and by whose grace whatever I have thought or acted acceptable to Thee has been inspired and directed ; grant, O LORD, that in reviewing my past life, I may recollect thy mercies to my preservation, in whatsoever state Thou preparest

for me ; that in affliction I may remember how often I have been succoured ; and in prosperity may know and confess from whose hand the blessing is received. Let me, O LORD, so remember my sins, that I may abolish them by true repentance, and so improve the year to which Thou hast graciously extended my life, and all the years which Thou shalt yet allow me, that I may hourly become purer in Thy sight ; so that I may live in Thy fear, and die in Thy favour, and find mercy at the last day, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

PRAYER ON THE RAMBLER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good things, without whose help all labour is ineffectual, and without whose grace all wisdom is folly ; grant, I beseech Thee, that in this my undertaking, Thy HOLY SPIRIT may not be withheld from me, but that I may promote Thy glory, and the salvation both of myself and others ; grant this, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

1752.

PRAYERS*

COMPOSED BY ME ON THE DEATH OF MY WIFE, AND
REPOSITED AMONG HER MEMORIALS, MAY 8, 1752.

Deus exaudi.—*Heu!*

April 24, 1752.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who lovest those whom Thou punishest, and turnest away Thy anger from the penitent, look down with pity upon my sorrows, and grant that the affliction which it has pleased Thee to bring upon me, may awaken my conscience, enforce my resolutions of a better life, and impress upon me such conviction of Thy power and goodness, that I may place in Thee my only felicity, and endeavour to please Thee in all my thoughts, words, and actions. Grant, O LORD, that I may not languish in fruitless and unavailing sorrow, but that I may consider from whose hand all good and evil is received, and may remember that I am punished for my sins, and hope for comfort only by repentance. Grant, O merciful GOD, that by the assistance of Thy

* The four following Prayers.

HOLY SPIRIT I may repent, and be comforted, obtain that peace which the world cannot give, pass the residue of my life in humble resignation and cheerful obedience; and when it shall please Thee to call me from this mortal state, resign myself into Thy hands with faith and confidence, and finally obtain mercy and everlasting happiness, for the sake of **JESUS CHRIST** our **LORD**. Amen.

April 25, 1752.

O **LORD**, our heavenly **Father**, almighty and most merciful **God**, in whose hands are life and death, who givest and takest away, castest down and raisest up, look with mercy on the affliction of Thy unworthy servant, turn away Thine anger from me, and speak peace to my troubled soul. Grant me the assistance and comfort of Thy **HOLY SPIRIT**, that I may remember with thankfulness the blessings so long enjoyed by me in the society of my departed wife; make me so to think on her precepts and example, that I may imitate whatever was in her life acceptable in Thy

sight, and avoid all by which she offended Thee. Forgive me, O merciful LORD, all my sins, and enable me to begin and perfect that reformation which I promised her, and to persevere in that resolution, which she implored Thee to continue, in the purposes which I recorded in Thy sight, when she lay dead before me, in obedience to Thy laws, and faith in Thy word. And now, O LORD, release me from my sorrow, fill me with just hopes, true faith, and holy consolations, and enable me to do my duty in that state of life to which Thou hast been pleased to call me, without disturbance from fruitless grief, or tumultuous imaginations; that in all my thoughts, words, and actions, I may glorify Thy Holy Name, and finally obtain, what I hope Thou hast granted to Thy departed servant, everlasting joy and felicity, through our LORD JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

May 6, 1752.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, without whom all purposes are frustrate, all efforts are vain, grant me the assistance of

Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that I may not sorrow as one without hope, but may now return to the duties of my present state with humble confidence in Thy protection, and so govern my thoughts and actions, that neither business may withdraw my mind from Thee, nor idleness lay me open to vain imaginations; that neither praise may fill me with pride, nor censure with discontent; but that in the changes of this life, I may fix my heart upon the reward which Thou hast promised to them that serve Thee, and that whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever are pure, whatever are lovely, whatever are of good report, wherein there is virtue, wherein there is praise, I may think upon and do, and obtain mercy and everlasting happiness. Grant this, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Our Father, &c.—The grace, &c.

May 6. I used this service, written April 24, 25, May, 6, as preparatory to my return to life to-morrow.

Blessed are the dead which die in the LORD from henceforth.

Apoc. xiv. 13.

April 26, 1752, being after 12 at
night of the 25th.

OLORD, Governor of heaven and earth, in whose hands are embodied and departed spirits, if Thou hast ordained the souls of the dead to minister to the living, and appointed my departed wife to have care of me, grant that I may enjoy the good effects of her attention and ministrations, whether exercised by appearance, impulses, dreams, or in any other manner agreeable to Thy government; forgive my presumption, enlighten my ignorance, and however meaner agents are employed, grant me the blessed influences of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

BEFORE ANY NEW STUDY.

November.

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose hands are all the powers of man; who givest understanding, and takest it away; who, *as it seemeth good unto Thee, enlightenest*

the thoughts of the simple, and darkenest the meditations of the wise, be present with me in my studies and enquiries.

Grant, O LORD, that I may not lavish away the life which Thou hast given me on useless trifles, nor waste it in vain searches after things which Thou hast hidden from me.

Enable me by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, so to shun sloth and negligence, that every day may discharge part of the task which Thou hast allotted me; and so further with Thy help that labour which without Thy help, must be ineffectual, that I may obtain, in all my undertakings, such success as will most promote Thy glory, and the salvation of my own soul, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

AFTER TIME NEGLIGENTLY AND
UNPROFITABLY SPENT.

November 19.

OLORD, in whose hands are life and death, by whose power I am sustained,

and by whose mercy I am spared, look down upon me with pity. Forgive me, that I have this day neglected the duty which Thou hast assigned to it, and suffered the hours, of which I must give account, to pass away without any endeavour to accomplish Thy will, or to promote my own salvation. Make me to remember, O God, that every day is Thy gift and ought to be used according to Thy command. Grant me, therefore, so to repent of my negligence, that I may obtain mercy from Thee, and pass the time which Thou shalt yet allow me, in diligent performance of Thy commands, through JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

1753.

ON EASTER DAY.

April 22.

OLORD, who givest the grace of repentance, and hearest the prayers of the penitent, grant, that by true contrition, I may obtain forgiveness of all the sins com-

mitted, and of all duties neglected, in my union with the wife whom Thou hast taken from me ; for the neglect of joint devotion, patient exhortation, and mild instruction. And, O LORD, who canst change evil to good, grant that the loss of my wife may so mortify all inordinate affections in me, that I may henceforth please Thee by holiness of life.

And, O LORD, so far as it may be lawful for me, I commend to Thy fatherly goodness the soul of my departed wife ; beseeching Thee to grant her whatever is best in her present state, and finally to receive her to eternal happiness. All this I beg for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, whose death I am now about to commemorate. To whom, &c. Amen.

This I repeated sometimes at church.

1754.

Fl. Lacr.

March 28, in the morning.

O GOD, who on this day wert pleased to take from me my dear wife,

B

sanctify to me my sorrows and reflections. Grant that I may renew and practice the resolutions which I made when Thy afflicting hand was upon me. Let the remembrance of Thy judgments, by which my wife is taken away, awaken me to repentance; and the sense of Thy mercy, by which I am spared, strengthen my hope and confidence in Thee, that by the assistance and comfort of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, I may so pass through things temporal, as finally to gain everlasting happiness, and to pass, by a holy and happy death, into the joy which Thou hast prepared for those that love Thee. Grant this, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

March 28, 1754, at night.

ALMIGHTY GOD, vouchsafe to sanctify unto me the reflections and resolutions of this day; let not my sorrow be unprofitable; let not my resolutions be vain. Grant that my grief may produce true repentance, so that I may live to please Thee; and when the time shall come that I must die like her whom Thou hast taken from me, grant me eternal happiness

in Thy presence, through JESUS CHRIST
our LORD. Amen.

The melancholy of this day hung long upon me.
Of the resolutions made this day, I in some
measure kept that of breaking from indolence.

1755.

ON THE STUDY OF PHILOSOPHY, AS AN
INSTRUMENT OF LIVING.

July.

O LORD, who hast ordained labour to
be the lot of man, and seest the
necessities of all Thy creatures, bless my
studies and endeavours; feed me with
food convenient for me; and if it shall be
Thy good pleasure to intrust me with
plenty, give me a compassionate heart, that
I may be ready to relieve the wants of
others; let neither poverty nor riches
estrangle my heart from Thee, but assist
me by Thy grace so to live as that I may
die in Thy favour, for the sake of JESUS
CHRIST. Amen.

This study was not pursued.

Transcribed June 26, 1768.

1756.

January 1, afternoon.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, in whom we live and move, and have our being, glory be to Thee for my recovery from sickness, and the continuance of my life. Grant, O my God, that I may improve the year which I am now beginning, and all the days which Thou shalt add to my life, by serious repentance and diligent obedience; that, by the help of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, I may use the means of grace to my own salvation, and at last enjoy Thy presence in eternal happiness, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake.

HILL BOOTHBY'S DEATH.

January, 1756.

O LORD GOD, almighty disposer of all things, in whose hands are life and death, who givest comforts and takest them away, I return Thee thanks for the good example of Hill Boothby, whom Thou hast now taken away, and implore Thy grace, that I may improve the opportunity of

instruction which Thou hast afforded me, by the knowledge of her life, and by the sense of her death; that I may consider the uncertainty of my present state, and apply myself earnestly to the duties which Thou hast set before me, that living in Thy fear, I may die in Thy favour, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

I commend, &c., W. and H. B.

Transcribed June 26, 1768.

WHEN MY EYE WAS RESTORED TO ITS USE.

February 15, 1756.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast restored light to my eye, and enabled me to pursue again the studies which Thou hast set before me; teach me, by the diminution of my sight, to remember that whatever I possess is Thy gift, and by its recovery, to hope for Thy mercy: and O LORD, take not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me; but grant that I may use Thy bounties according to Thy will, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

INTRODUCTORY PRAYER.

March 25, 1756.

O GOD, who desirest not the death of a sinner, look down with mercy upon me, now daring to call upon Thee. Let Thy HOLY SPIRIT so purify my affections, and exalt my desires, that my prayer may be acceptable in Thy sight, through JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

March 28, about 2 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, whose judgments terminate in mercy, grant, I beseech Thee, that the remembrance of my wife, whom Thou hast taken from me, may not load my soul with unprofitable sorrow, but may excite in me true repentance of my sins and negligences; and, by the co-operation of Thy grace, may produce in me a new life, pleasing to Thee. Grant that the loss of my wife may teach me the true use of the blessings which are yet left me; and that, however bereft of worldly comforts, I may find peace and refuge in Thy service, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

1757.

January 1, at 2 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast brought me to the beginning of another year, and by prolonging my life invitest to repentance, forgive me that I have mispent the time past ; enable me, from this instant, to amend my life according to Thy holy word ; grant me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that I may so pass through things temporal, as not finally to lose the things eternal. O God, hear my prayer for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

EASTER EVE.

ALMIGHTY GOD, heavenly Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, look down with mercy upon me, depraved with vain imaginations, and entangled in long habits of sin. Grant me that grace, without which I can neither will nor do what is acceptable to Thee. Pardon my sins ; remove the impediments that hinder my obedience ; enable me to shake off sloth, and to redeem the time mispent in idleness and sin, by a diligent application

of the days yet remaining, to the duties which Thy providence shall allot me. O God, grant me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that I may repent and amend my life; grant me contrition, grant me resolution, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST, to whose covenant I now implore admission, of the benefits of whose death I implore participation. For His sake have mercy on me, O God; for His sake, O God, pardon and receive me. Amen.

September 18, 1757.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, by whose providence my life has been prolonged, and who hast granted me now to begin another year of probation, vouchsafe me such assistance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that the continuance of my life may not add to the measure of my guilt; but that I may so repent of the days and years passed in neglect of the duties which Thou hast set before me, in vain thoughts, in sloth, and in folly, that I may apply my heart to true wisdom, by diligence redeem the time lost, and by repentance obtain pardon, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

1758.

EASTER DAY.

March 26.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast created me to love and to serve Thee, enable me so to partake of the Sacrament in which the death of JESUS CHRIST is commemorated, that I may henceforward lead a new life in Thy faith and fear. Thou, who knowest my frailties and infirmities, strengthen and support me; grant me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that, after all my lapses, I may now continue stedfast in obedience, that, after long habits of negligence and sin, I may, at last, work out my salvation with diligence and constancy; purify my thoughts from pollutions, and fix my affections on things eternal. Much of my time past has been lost in sloth; let not what remains, O LORD, be given me in vain; but let me, from this time, lead a better life, and serve Thee with a quiet mind, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

March 28, 1758.

ALMIGHTY and eternal God, who givest life and takest it away, grant that while Thou shalt prolong my continuance on earth, I may live with a due sense of Thy mercy and forbearance, and let the remembrance of her whom Thy hand has separated from me, teach me to consider the shortness and uncertainty of life, and to use all diligence to obtain eternal happiness in Thy presence. O God, enable me to avoid sloth, and to attend heedfully and constantly to Thy word and worship. Whatever was good in the example of my departed wife, teach me to follow; and whatever was amiss, give me grace to shun, that my affliction may be sanctified, and that remembering how much every day brings me nearer to the grave, I may every day purify my mind, and amend my life, by the assistance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, till at last I shall be accepted by Thee, for JESUS CHRIST's sake. Amen.

Sept. 18, horâ primâ matutinâ.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who yet sparest and yet supportest

me, who supportest me in my weakness, and sparest me in my sins, and hast now granted to me to begin another year, enable me to improve the time which is yet before me, to Thy glory and my own salvation. Impress upon my soul such repentance of the days mispent in idleness and folly, that I may henceforward diligently attend to the business of my station in this world, and to all the duties which Thou hast commanded. Let Thy HOLY SPIRIT comfort and guide me, that in my passage through the pains or pleasures of the present state, I may never be tempted to forgetfulness of Thee. Let my life be useful, and my death be happy; let me live according to Thy laws, and die with just confidence in Thy mercy, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

This year I hope to learn diligence.

1759.

Jan. 23.

The day on which my dear Mother was buried.
Repeated on my fast, with the addition.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father,
in whose hands are life and death,

sanctify unto me the sorrow which I now feel. Forgive me whatever I have done unkindly to my mother, and whatever I have omitted to do kindly. Make me to remember her good precepts and good example, and to reform my life according to Thy holy word, that I may lose no more opportunities of good. I am sorrowful, O LORD; let not my sorrow be without fruit. Let it be followed by holy resolutions, and lasting amendment, that when I shall die like my mother, I may be received to everlasting life.

I commend, O LORD, so far as it may be lawful, into Thy hands, the soul of my departed mother, beseeching Thee to grant her whatever is most beneficial to her in her present state.

O LORD, grant me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, and have mercy upon me for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

And, O LORD, grant unto me that am now about to return to the common comforts and business of the world, such moderation in all enjoyments, such diligence in honest labour, and such purity of mind, that,

amidst the changes, miseries, or pleasures of life, I may keep my mind fixed upon Thee, and improve every day in grace, till I shall be received into Thy kingdom of eternal happiness.

I returned thanks for my mother's good example, and implored pardon for neglecting it.

I returned thanks for the alleviation of my sorrow.

The dream of my brother I shall remember.

Jej.

March 24, 1759, rather 25,
after 12 at night.

ALMIGHTY GOD, heavenly Father, who hast graciously prolonged my life to this time, and by the change of outward things which I am now to make, callest me to a change of inward affections, and to a reformation of my thoughts, words, and practices; vouchsafe, merciful LORD, that this call may not be vain. Forgive me whatever has been amiss in the state

which I am now leaving, idleness, and neglect of Thy word and worship. Grant me the grace of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that the course which I am now beginning may proceed according to Thy laws, and end in the enjoyment of Thy favour. Give me, O LORD, pardon and peace, that I may serve Thee with humble confidence, and after this life, enjoy Thy presence in eternal happiness.

And, O LORD, so far as it may be lawful for me, I commend to Thy Fatherly goodness, my father, my brother, my wife, my mother. I beseech Thee to look mercifully upon them, and grant them whatever may most promote their present and eternal joy.

O LORD, hear my prayers for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, to whom, with Thee and the HOLY GHOST, Three Persons and one GOD, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

O LORD, let the change which I am now making in outward things, produce in me such a change of manners, as may fit me for the great change through which my wife has passed.

1760.

Sept. 18.

RESOLVED, D[*eo*] j[*uvante*],

- To combat notions of obligation.
 - To apply to study.
 - To reclaim imaginations.
 - To consult the resolves on Tetty's coffin.
 - To rise early.
 - To study religion.
 - To go to church.
 - To drink less strong liquors.
 - To keep a journal.
 - To oppose laziness, by doing what is to be done to-morrow.
 - Rise as early as I can.
 - Send for books for Hist. of War.
 - Put books in order.
 - Scheme of life.
-

O ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hast continued my life to another year, grant that I may spend the time which Thou shalt yet give me in such obedience to Thy word and will, that, finally, I may obtain everlasting life. Grant

that I may repent and forsake my sins before the miseries of age fall upon me; and that while my strength yet remains, I may use it to Thy glory and my own salvation, by the assistance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, for JESUS CHRIST's sake. Amen.

1761.

EASTER EVE.

SINCE the Communion of last Easter, I have led a life so dissipated and useless, and my terrors and perplexities have so much increased, that I am under great depression and discouragement; yet I purpose to present myself before God to-morrow, with humble hope that He will not break the bruised reed.

Come unto me, all ye that travail.

I have resolved (I hope not presumptuously) till I am afraid to resolve again. Yet, hoping in God, I stedfastly purpose to lead a new life. O GOD, enable me, for JESUS CHRIST's sake.

My purpose is,

To avoid idleness.

To regulate my sleep as to length and choice of hours.

To set down every day what shall be done the day following.

To keep a journal.

To worship God more diligently.

To go to church every Sunday.

To study the Scriptures.

To read a certain portion every week.

EASTER EVE.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, look down upon my misery with pity; strengthen me that I may overcome all sinful habits; grant that I may, with effectual faith, commemorate the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST, so that all corrupt desires may be extinguished, and all vain thoughts may be dispelled. Enlighten me with true knowledge, animate me with reasonable hope, comfort me with a just sense of Thy love, and assist me to the performance of all holy purposes, that after the sins, errors, and miseries of this world,

I may obtain everlasting happiness for
JESUS CHRIST'S sake. To whom, &c.
Amen.

I hope to attend on God in His ordinances to-
morrow.

Trust in God, O my soul. O God, let me trust
in Thee.

1762.

March 28.

God grant that I may, from this day,

Return to my studies.

Labour diligently.

Rise early.

Live temperately.

Read the Bible.

Go to church.

O GOD, giver and preserver of all life,
by whose power I was created, and
by whose providence I am sustained, look
down upon me with tenderness and mercy ;
grant that I may not have been created to
be finally destroyed ; that I may not be
preserved to add wickedness to wickedness ;

but may so repent me of my sins, and so order my life to come, that when I shall be called hence, like the wife whom Thou hast taken from me, I may die in peace and in Thy favour, and be received into Thine everlasting kingdom, through the merits and mediation of JESUS CHRIST, Thine only SON our LORD and SAVIOUR. Amen.

1764.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who by Thy Son JESUS CHRIST hast redeemed us from sin and death, grant that the commemoration of His Passion may quicken my repentance, increase my hope, and strengthen my faith; that I may lament and forsake my sins; and, for the time which Thou shalt yet grant me, may avoid idleness, and neglect of Thy word and worship. Grant me strength to be diligent in the lawful employments which shall be set before me; grant me purity of thoughts, words, and actions. Grant me to love and study Thy word, and to frequent Thy worship with pure affection.

Deliver and preserve me from vain terrours, and grant that by the grace of Thy HOLY SPIRIT I may so live, that after this life ended, I may be received to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 20, 1764.

I HAVE made no reformation; I have lived totally useless, more sensual in thought, and more addicted to wine and meat. Grant me, O God, to amend my life, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

I hope to put my rooms in order.*
I fasted all day.

April 21, 1764, 3 in the morning.

My indolence, since my last reception of the Sacrament, has sunk into grosser sluggishness, and my dissipation spread into wilder negligence. My thoughts have been clouded with sensuality; and except that, from the beginning of this year, I have in some measure forborn excess of strong drink, my

* Disorder I have found one great cause of idleness.

appetites have predominated over my reason. A kind of strange oblivion has overspread me, so that I know not what has become of the last year; and perceive that incidents and intelligence pass over me without leaving any impression.

This is not the life to which heaven is promised. I purpose to approach the altar again tomorrow. Grant, O LORD, that I may receive the Sacrament with such resolutions of a better life as may by Thy grace be effectual, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

April 21. I read the whole Gospel of St. John. Then sat up till the 22nd.

My purpose is, from this time,

To reject or expel sensual images and idle thoughts.

To provide some useful amusement for leisure time.

To avoid idleness.

To rise early.

To study a proper portion of every day.

To worship God diligently.

To read the Scriptures.

To let no week pass without reading some part.

To write down my observations.

I will renew my resolutions made at Tetty's death.

I perceive an insensibility and heaviness upon me. I am less than commonly oppressed with the sense of sin, and less affected with the shame of idleness. Yet I will not despair. I will pray to God for resolution, and will endeavour to strengthen my faith in CHRIST, by commemorating His death.

I prayed for Tett.

E A S T E R D A Y .

April 22, 1764.

HAVING, before I went to bed, composed the foregoing meditation, and the following prayer; I tried to compose myself, but slept unquietly. I rose, took tea, and prayed for resolution and perseverance. Thought on Tetty, dear poor Tetty, with my eyes full.

I went to church; came in at the first of the Psalms, and endeavoured to attend the service, which I went through, without perturbation. After sermon, I recommended Tetty in a prayer by herself; and my father, mother, brother, and Bathurst, in another. I did it only once, so far as it might be lawful for me.

I then prayed for resolution and perseverance to amend my life. I received soon, the communicants were many. At the altar, it occurred to me that I ought to form some resolutions. I resolved, in the presence of God, but without a vow, to repel sinful thoughts, to study eight hours daily, and, I think, to go to church every Sunday, and read the Scriptures. I gave a shilling; and seeing a poor girl at the Sacrament in a bedgown, gave her privately a crown, though I saw Hart's Hymns in her hand. I prayed earnestly for amendment, and repeated my prayer at home. Dined with Miss W., went to prayers at church; went to ———, spent the evening not pleasantly. Avoided wine, and tempered a very few glasses with sherbet. Came home and prayed.

I saw at the Sacrament a man meanly dressed, whom I have always seen there at Easter.

EASTER DAY.

AGAINST LOOSE THOUGHTS AND IDLENESS.

April 22, 1764, at 3 morning

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,
who hast created and preserved me,

have pity on my weakness and corruption. Deliver me from habitual wickedness and idleness ; enable me to purify my thoughts, to use the faculties which Thou hast given me with honest diligence, and to regulate my life by Thy holy word.

Grant me, O LORD, good purposes and steady resolutions, that I may repent my sins, and amend my life. Deliver me from the distresses of vain terrour, and enable me, by Thy grace, to will and to do what may please Thee ; that when I shall be called away from this present state, I may obtain everlasting happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1764, about 6 evening.

THIS is my fifty-sixth birth-day, the day on which I have concluded fifty-five years.

I have outlived many friends. I have felt many sorrows. I have made few improvements. Since my resolution formed last Easter, I have made no advancement in knowledge or in goodness ; nor do I recollect that I have endeavoured it. I am dejected, but not hopeless.

O GOD, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, have mercy upon me.

7 in the evening.

I went to church, prayed *to be loosed from the chain of my sins.*

I have now spent fifty-five years in resolving; having from the earliest time almost that I can remember, been forming schemes of a better life. I have done nothing; the need of doing therefore is pressing, since the time of doing is short. O GOD, grant me to resolve aright, and to keep my resolutions, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

Hæc limina vitæ.

STAT.

I resolve,

To study the Scriptures; I hope in the original languages. Six hundred and forty verses every Sunday, will nearly comprise the Scriptures in a year.

To read good books; to study theology.

To treasure in my mind passages for recollection.

To rise early; not later than six, if I can; I hope sooner, but as soon as I can.

To keep a journal, both of employment and of expences. To keep accounts.

To take care of my health, by such means as I have designed.

To set down at night some plan for the morrow.

Last year I prayed on my birth-day, by accommodating the Morning Collect for grace, putting *year* for *day*. This I did this day.

September 18, 1764.

O GOD, heavenly Father, who desirest not the death of a sinner, grant that I may turn from my wickedness and live. Enable me to shake off all impediments of lawful action, and so to order my life, that increase of days may produce increase of grace, of tranquillity of thought, and vigour in duty. Grant that my resolves may be effectual to a holy life, and a happy death, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

To-morrow I purpose to regulate my room.

1765.

EASTER DAY.

April 7, about 3 in the morning.

I purpose again to partake of the blessed Sacrament; yet when I consider how vainly I have hitherto resolved, at this annual com-

memoration of my SAVIOUR'S death, to regulate my life by His laws, I am almost afraid to renew my resolutions. Since the last Easter I have reformed no evil habit, my time has been unprofitably spent, and seems as a dream that has left nothing behind. My memory grows confused, and I know not how the days pass over me.

Good LORD, deliver me.

I will call upon GOD to-morrow for repentance and amendment. O heavenly Father, let not my call be vain, but grant me to desire what may please Thee ; and fulfil those desires for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

My resolutions, which GOD perfect, are,

1. To avoid loose thoughts.
2. To rise at eight every morning.

I hope to extend these purposes to other duties ; but it is necessary to combat evil habits singly. I purpose to rise at eight, because, though I shall not rise early, it will be much earlier than I now rise, for I often lie till two, and will gain me much time, and tend to a conquest over idleness, and give time for other duties. I hope to rise yet earlier.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, nor desirest the death of a sinner, look down with mercy upon me, and grant that I may turn from my wickedness and live. Forgive the days and years which I have passed in folly, idleness, and sin. Fill me with such sorrow for the time mispent, that I may amend my life according to Thy holy word; strengthen me against habitual idleness, and enable me to direct my thoughts to the performance of every duty; that while I live I may serve Thee in the state to which Thou shalt call me, and at last by a holy and happy death be delivered from the struggles and sorrows of this life, and obtain eternal happiness by Thy mercy, for the sake of **JESUS CHRIST** our **LORD**. Amen.

O God, have mercy on me.

At church I purpose,

Before I leave the pew, to pray the occasional prayer, and read my resolutions.

To pray for Tetty and the rest.

The like after communion.

At intervals to use the Collects of Fourth after Trinity, and First and Fourth after Epiphany, and to meditate.

This was done as I purposed, but with some distraction. I came in at the Psalms, and could not well hear. I renewed my resolutions at the altar. God perfect them. Then I came home. I prayed, and have hope; grant, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST, that my hope may not be vain.

I invited home with me the man whose pious behaviour I had for several years observed on this day, and found him a kind of Methodist, full of texts, but ill-instructed. I talked to him with temper, and offered him twice wine which he refused. I suffered him to go without the dinner which I had purposed to give him. I thought this day that there was something irregular and particular in his look and gesture; but having intended to invite him to acquaintance, and having a fit opportunity by finding him near my own seat after I had missed him, I did what I at first designed, and am sorry to have been so much disappointed. Let me not be prejudiced hereafter against the appearance of piety in mean persons, who, with indeterminate notions, and perverse or inelegant conversation, perhaps are doing all they can.

At night I used the occasional prayer, with proper Collects.

BEFORE THE STUDY OF LAW.

Sept. 26, 1765.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of wisdom, without whose help resolutions are vain, without whose blessing study is ineffectual, enable me, if it be Thy will, to attain such knowledge as may qualify me to direct the doubtful, and instruct the ignorant, to prevent wrongs, and terminate contentions; and grant that I may use that knowledge which I shall attain, to Thy glory and my own salvation, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

ENGAGING IN POLITICKS WITH H—N.

Nov. 1765.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the giver of all wisdom, enlighten my understanding with knowledge of right, and govern my will by Thy laws, that no deceit may mislead me, nor temptation corrupt me; that I may always endeavour to do good, and to hinder evil. Amidst all the *hopes and fears* of this world, take not Thy

HOLY SPIRIT from me; but grant that my thoughts may be fixed on Thee, and that I may finally attain everlasting happiness, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

1766.

Jan. 1, after 2 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, I again appear in Thy presence the wretched mispender of another year, which Thy mercy has allowed me. O LORD, let me not sink into total depravity, look down upon me, and rescue me at last from the captivity of sin. Impart to me good resolutions, and give me strength and perseverance to perform them. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but grant that I may redeem the time lost, and that by temperance and diligence, by sincere repentance and faithful obedience, I may finally obtain everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

STUDY.

ENTERING NOVUM MUSEUM.

March 7.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast graciously supplied me with new conveniences for study, grant that I may use Thy gifts to Thy glory. Forgive me the time mispent, relieve my perplexities, strengthen my resolution, and enable me to do my duty with vigour and constancy; and when the fears and hopes, the pains and pleasures of this life shall have an end, receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Transcribed June 26, —68.

Sept. 18, 1766, at Streatham.

I have this day completed my fifty-seventh year.
O LORD, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake, have mercy upon me.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast granted me to prolong my *life* to another year, look down upon me

with pity. Let not my manifold sins and negligences avert from me Thy Fatherly regard. Enlighten my mind that I may know my duty; that I may perform it, strengthen my resolution. Let not another year be lost in vain deliberations; let me remember, that of the short life of man, a great part is already past in sinfulness and sloth. Deliver me, gracious LORD, from the bondage of evil customs, and take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT; but enable me so to spend my remaining days, that, by performing Thy Will, I may promote Thy glory; and grant that after the troubles and disappointments of this mortal state, I may obtain everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Added,

The Fourteenth S. after Tr.

The Morning Collect.

The beginning of this (day) year.

Purposes,

To keep a journal. To begin this day.

To spend four hours every day in study, and as much more as I can.

To read a portion of the Scriptures, in Greek,
every Sunday.
To rise at Eight.

Oct. 3, —66. Of all this I have done nothing.

I returned from Streatham Oct. 1, —66, having
lived there more than three months.

1767.

Jan. 1mâ mane scripsi.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father,
in whose hand are life and death, as
Thou hast suffered me to see the beginning
of another year, grant, I beseech Thee,
that another year may not be lost in idle-
ness, or squandered in unprofitable employ-
ment. Let not sin prevail on the remaining
part of life, and take not from me Thy
HOLY SPIRIT; but as every day brings me
nearer to my end, let every day contribute
to make my end holy and happy. Enable
me, O LORD, to use all enjoyments with
due temperance, preserve me from unsea-
sonable and immoderate sleep, and enable
me to run with diligence the race that is

set before me, that, after the troubles of this life, I may obtain everlasting happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

August 2, 1767.

I have been disturbed and unsettled for a long time, and have been without resolution to apply to study or to business, being hindered by sudden snatches.

I have for some days forborn wine and suppers. Abstinence is not easily practised in another's house; but I think it fit to try.

I was extremely perturbed in the night, but have had this day more ease than I expected. D. gr. Perhaps this may be such a sudden relief as I once had by a good night's rest in Fetter-lane.

The shortness of the time which the common order of nature allows me to expect, is very frequently upon my mind. God grant that it may profit me.

August, 17, 1767.

From that time, by abstinence, I have had more ease. I have read five books of Homer,

and hope to end the sixth to-night. I have given Mrs. — a guinea.

By abstinence from wine and suppers, I obtained sudden and great relief, and had freedom of mind restored to me; which I have wanted for all this year, without being able to find any means of obtaining it.

I am now about to receive, with my old friend Kitty Chambers, the sacrament, preparatory to her death. Grant, O God, that it may fit me. I purpose temperance for my resolution. O God, enable me to keep my purpose to Thy glory.

5.32 P.M.

I have communicated with Kitty, and kissed her. I was for some time distracted, but at last more composed. I commended my friends and Kitty. Lucy and I were much affected. Kitty is, I think, going to heaven.

Aug. 17, 1767.

O GOD, grant that I may practise such temperance in meat, drink, and sleep, and all bodily enjoyments, as may fit me *for the duties to which Thou shalt call me,*

and by Thy blessing procure me freedom of thought and quietness of mind, that I may so serve Thee in this short and frail life, that I may be received by Thee at my death to everlasting happiness. Take not, O LORD, Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me; deliver me not up to vain fears; but have mercy on me, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. Amen.

O GOD, who desirest not the death, &c.
O LORD, grant us increase—
O GOD,—pardon and peace—
O GOD, who knowest our necessities—
Our Father—

Sunday, Oct. 18, 1767.

YESTERDAY, Oct. 17, at about Ten in the morning, I took my leave for ever of my dear old friend Catherine Chambers, who came to live with my mother about 1724, and has been but little parted from us since. She buried my father, my brother, and my mother. She is now fifty-eight years old.

I desired all to withdraw, then told her that we were to part for ever; that as Christians, we should part with prayer; and that I would, if she was willing, say a short prayer beside

her. She expressed great desire to hear me; and held up her poor hands, as she lay in bed, with great fervour, while I prayed, kneeling by her, nearly in the following words:

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, whose loving-kindness is over all Thy works, behold, visit, and relieve this Thy servant, who is grieved with sickness. Grant that the sense of her weakness may add strength to her faith, and seriousness to her repentance. And grant that by the help of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, after the pains and labours of this short life, we may all obtain everlasting happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD: for whose sake hear our prayers. Amen. Our Father, &c.

I then kissed her. She told me that to part was the greatest pain that she had ever felt, and that she hoped we should meet again in a better place. I expressed, with swelled eyes, and great emotion of tenderness, the same hopes. We kissed, and parted. I humbly hope to meet again, and to part no more.

1768.

BED-TIME.

Lent 2.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that I have no power of myself to help myself; keep me both outwardly in my body, and inwardly in my soul, that I may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, through **JESUS CHRIST** our **LORD**. Amen.

This prayer may be said before or after the entrance into bed, as a preparative for sleep.

When I transcribed this prayer, it was my purpose to have made this* book a collection.

STUDY OF TONGUES.

ALMIGHTY GOD, giver of all knowledge, enable me so to pursue the study of tongues, that I may promote Thy glory and my own salvation.

* [A parchment book containing such of these prayers as are marked *transcribed*.]

Bless my endeavours, as shall seem best unto Thee; and if it shall please Thee to grant me the attainment of my purpose, preserve me from sinful pride; take not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me, but give me a pure heart and humble mind, through JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Of this prayer there is no date, nor can I tell when it was written; but I think it was in Gough-square, after the Dictionary was ended. I did not study what I then intended.

Transcribed June 26, 1768.

Townmall, in Kent,
Sept. 18, 1768, at night.

I HAVE now begun the sixtieth year of my life. How the last year has past, I am unwilling to terrify myself with thinking. This day has been past in great perturbation; I was distracted at church in an uncommon degree, and my distress has had very little intermission. I have found myself somewhat relieved by reading, which I therefore intend to practise when I am able.

This day it came into my mind to write the history of my melancholy. On this I purpose to deliberate; I know not whether it may not too much disturb me.

I this day read a great part of Pascal's life.

O LORD, who hast safely brought me, &c.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, Creator and Preserver of mankind, look down with pity upon my troubles and maladies. Heal my body, strengthen my mind, compose my distraction, calm my inquietude, and relieve my terrors; that if it please Thee, I may run the race that is set before me with peace, patience, constancy, and confidence. Grant this, O LORD, and take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but pardon and bless me, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD.

1769.

January 1.

I AM now about to begin another year: how the last has past, it would be in my state of weakness perhaps not prudent too solicitously

to recollect. God will, I hope, turn my sufferings to my benefit, forgive me whatever I have done amiss, and having vouchsafed me great relief, will by degrees heal and restore both my mind and body ; and permit me, when the last year of my life shall come, to leave the world in holiness and tranquillity.

I am not yet in a state to form many resolutions ; I purpose, and hope to rise early in the morning, at eight, and by degrees at six ; eight being the latest hour to which bed-time can be properly extended ; and six the earliest that the present system of life requires.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast continued my life from year to year, grant that by longer life I may become less desirous of sinful pleasures, and more careful of eternal happiness. As age comes upon me, let my mind be more withdrawn from vanity and folly, more enlightened with the knowledge of Thy Will, and more invigorated with resolution to obey it. O LORD, calm my thoughts, direct my desires, and fortify my purposes. If it shall please Thee, give quiet to my

latter days, and so support me with Thy grace, that I may die in Thy favour, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Safely brought us to the beginning of this year, &c.

September 18, 1769.

THIS day completes the sixtieth year of my age.

What I have done, and what I have left undone, the unsettled state of my mind makes all endeavours to think improper. I hope to survey my life with more tranquillity, in some part of the time which God shall grant me.

The last year has been wholly spent in a slow progress of recovery. My days are easier, but the perturbation of my nights is very distressful. I think to try a lower diet. I have grown fat too fast. My lungs seem incumbered, and my breath fails me, if my strength is in any unusual degree exerted, or my motion accelerated. I seem to myself to bear exercise with more difficulty than in the last winter. But though I feel all those decays of body, I have made no preparation for the grave. What shall I do to be saved?

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, I now appear in Thy presence, laden with the sins, and accountable for the mercies of another year. Glory be to Thee, O God, for the mitigation of my troubles, and for the hope of health both of mind and body which Thou hast vouchsafed me. Most merciful LORD, if it seem good unto Thee, compose my mind, and relieve my diseases; enable me to perform the duties of my station, and so to serve Thee, as that, when my hour of departure from this painful life shall be delayed no longer, I may be received to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

O LORD, without whose help all the purposes of man are vain, enable me, to use such temperance as may heal my body, and strengthen my mind, and enable me to serve Thee. Grant this, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOUR. Amen.

Who hast safely brought me, &c.

Sept. 19, 1769.

YESTERDAY, having risen from a disturbed and wearisome night, I was not much at rest the whole the day. I prayed with the collect, *to the beginning*, in the night and in the morning. At night I composed my prayer, and wrote my reflection. Reviewing them, I found them both weakly conceived and imperfectly expressed, and corrected the prayer this morning. I am glad that I have not omitted my annual practice. I hope that by rigid temperance, and moderate exercise, I may yet recover. I used the prayer again at night, and am now to begin, by the permission of God, my sixty-first year.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, whose providence is over all Thy works, look down with pity upon the diseases of my body, and the perturbations of my mind. Give Thy blessing, O LORD, to the means which I shall use for my relief, and restore ease to my body, and quiet to my thoughts. Let not my remaining life be made useless by infirmities; neither let health, if Thou shalt grant it, be employed by me in disobedience to Thy laws;

but give me such a sense of my pains, as may humble me before Thee; and such remembrance of Thy mercy as may produce honest industry and holy confidence. And, O LORD, whether Thou ordainest my days to be past in ease or anguish, take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT; but grant that I may attain everlasting life, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

This I found January 11, 1772; and believe it written when I began to live on milk. I grew worse with forbearance of solid food.

1770.

Jan. 1, primâ mane.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose mercy I am permitted to behold the beginning of another year, succour with Thy help, and bless with Thy favour, the creature whom Thou vouchsafest to preserve. Mitigate, if it shall seem best unto Thee, the diseases of my body, and compose the disorders of *my mind*. Dispel my terrours; and grant,

that the time which Thou shalt yet allow me, may not pass unprofitably away. Let not pleasure seduce me, idleness lull me, or misery depress me. Let me perform to Thy glory, and the good of my fellow-creatures, the work which Thou shalt yet appoint me; and grant, that as I draw nearer to my dissolution, I may, by the help of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, feel my knowledge of Thee encreased, my hope exalted, and my faith strengthened, that, when the hour which is coming shall come, I may pass by a holy death to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Wednesday, March 28, 1770.

THIS is the day on which, in 1752, I was deprived of poor dear Tetty. Having left off the practice of thinking on her with some particular combinations, I have recalled her to my mind of late less frequently; but when I recollect the time in which we lived together, my grief for her departure is not abated; and I have less pleasure in any good that befalls me, because she does not partake it. On many occasions, I think what she would have said or done. When I saw the

sea at Brighthelmstone, I wished for her to have seen it with me. But with respect to her, no rational wish is now left, but that we may meet at last where the mercy of God shall make us happy, and perhaps make us instrumental to the happiness of each other. It is now eighteen years.

April 14, 1770.

THIS week is Passion Week.

I have for some weeks past been much afflicted with the lumbago, or rheumatism in the loins, which often passes to the muscles of the belly, where it causes equal, if not greater pain. In the day the sunshine mitigates it; and in cold or cloudy weather, such as has for some time past remarkably prevailed, the heat of a strong fire suspends it. In the night it is so troublesome, as not very easily to be borne. I lie wrapped in flannel, with a very great fire near my bed; but whether it be that a recumbent posture encreases the pain, or that expansion by moderate warmth excites what a great heat dissipates, I can seldom remain in bed two hours at a time without the necessity of rising to heat the parts affected at the fire.

One night, between the pain and the spasms in my stomach, I was insupportably distressed. On the next night, I think, I laid a blister to my back, and took opium ; my night was tolerable, and, from that time, the spasms in my stomach, which disturbed me for many years, and for two past harassed me almost to distraction, have nearly ceased ; I suppose the breast is relaxed by the opium.

Having passed Thursday in Passion Week at Mrs. Thrale's, I came home on Friday morning, that I might pass the day unobserved ; I had nothing but water, once in the morning, and once at bed-time. I refused tea, after some deliberation, in the afternoon. They did not press it. I came home late, and was unwilling to carry my rheumatism to the cold church in the morning, unless that were rather an excuse made to myself. In the afternoon I went to church, but came late, I think at the Creed. I read Clarke's Sermon on the death of Christ, and the Second Epistle to Timothy in Greek, but rather hastily. I then went to Thrale's, and had a very tedious and painful night. But the spasms in my throat are gone ; and, if either the pain, or the opiate which the pain enforced, has stopped them, the relief is very cheaply purchased. The pain harasses me much ; yet many have the disease perhaps

in a much higher degree, with want of food, fire, and covering, which I find thus grievous with all the succours that riches and kindness can buy and give.

On Saturday I was not hungry, and did not eat much breakfast. There was a dinner and company, at which I was persuaded or tempted to stay. At night I came home, sat up, and composed the Prayer; and having ordered the maid to make the fire in my chamber, at eight went to rest, and had a tolerable night.

EASTER DAY.

April 15, 1770, in the morning.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hast preserved me, by thy fatherly care, through all the years of my past life, and now permittest me again to commemorate the sufferings and merits of our LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST; grant me so to partake of this Holy Rite, that the disquiet of my mind may be appeased, that my faith may be encreased, my hope *strengthened*, and my life regulated by Thy

Will. Make me truly thankful for that portion of health which Thy mercy has restored, and enable me to use the remains of life to Thy glory and my own salvation. Take not from me, O LORD, Thy HOLY SPIRIT; extinguish in my mind all sinful and inordinate desires; let me resolve to do that which is right; and let me, by Thy help, keep my resolutions. Let me, if it be best for me, at last know peace and comfort; but whatever state of life Thou shalt appoint me, let me end it by a happy death, and enjoy eternal happiness in Thy presence, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

EASTER DAY.

1 in the afternoon.

I AM just returned from the Communion, having been very little interrupted in my duty by bodily pain.

I was very early at church, and used this Prayer, I think, before service, with proper Collects. I was composed during the service. I went

to the table to hear the prefatory part of the office, then returned to my pew, and tried to settle some resolutions.

I resolved to form, this day, some plan for reading the Scriptures.

To rise by eight, or earlier.

To form a plan for the regulation of my daily life.

To excite in myself such a fervent desire of pleasing God, as should suppress all other passions.

I prayed through all the collects of meditation, with some extemporary prayers; recommended my friends, living and dead. When I returned to the table, I staid till most had communicated, and in the mean time tried to settle my mind; prayed against bad and troublesome thoughts; resolved to oppose sudden incursions of them; and, I think, had — thrown into my mind at the General Confession. When I went first to the table, the particular series of my thoughts I cannot recollect.

When I came home I returned thanks by accommodating the General Thanksgiving; and used this Prayer again, with the Collects, after receiving. I hope God has heard me.

Shall I ever receive the Sacrament with tranquility? Surely the time will come.

Some vain thoughts stole upon me while I stood near the table; I hope I ejected them effectually, so as not to be hurt by them.

I went to prayers at seven, having fasted; read the two Morning Lessons in Greek. At night I read Clarke's Sermon of the Humiliation of our SAVIOUR.

1st Sunday after Easter.

I HAVE been recovering from my rheumatism slowly yet sensibly; but the last week has produced little good. Uneasy nights have tempted me to lie long in the morning. But when I wake in the night, the release which still continues from the spasms in my throat gives me great comfort.

The plan which I formed for reading the Scriptures, was to read 600 verses in the Old Testament, and 200 in the New, every week.

The Old Testament in any language, the New in Greek.

This day I began to read the Septuagint, but read only 230 verses, the nine first chapters of Genesis.

On this evening I repeated the Prayer for Easter Day, changing the future tense to the past.

June 1, 1770.

EVERY man naturally persuades himself that he can keep his resolutions, nor is he convinced of his imbecility but by length of time and frequency of experiment. This opinion of our own constancy is so prevalent, that we always despise him who suffers his general and settled purpose to be overpowered by an occasional desire. They, therefore, whom frequent failures have made desperate, cease to form resolutions; and they who are become cunning do not tell them. Those who do not make them are very few, but of their effect little is perceived; for scarcely any man persists in a course of life planned by choice, but as he is restrained from deviation by some external power. He who may live as he will, seldom lives long in the observation of his own rules. I never yet saw a regular family, unless it were that of Mrs. Harriot's, nor a regular man, except Mr. —, whose exactness I know only by his own report, and *Psalmanazar*, whose life was, I think, uniform.

1771.

E A S T E R D A Y .

March, 31.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, I am now about to commemorate once more, in Thy presence, the redemption of the world by our LORD and SAVIOUR Thy SON JESUS CHRIST. Grant, O most merciful GOD, that the benefit of His sufferings may be extended to me. Grant me faith, grant me repentance. Illuminate me with Thy HOLY SPIRIT, enable me to form good purposes, and to bring these purposes to good effect. Let me so dispose my time, that I may discharge the duties to which Thou shalt vouchsafe to call me; and let that degree of health, to which Thy mercy has restored me, be employed to Thy glory. O God, invigorate my understanding, compose my perturbations, recal my wanderings, and calm my thoughts; that having lived while Thou shalt grant me life, to do good and to praise Thee, I may, when Thy call shall summon me to another state, receive mercy from Thee, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1771, 9 at night.

I AM now come to my sixty-third year. For the last year I have been slowly recovering both from the violence of my last illness, and, I think, from the general disease of my life. My breath is less obstructed, and I am more capable of motion and exercise. My mind is less encumbered, and I am less interrupted in mental employment. Some advances I hope have been made towards regularity. I have missed church since Easter only two Sundays, both which I hope I have endeavoured to supply by attendance on divine worship in the following week. Since Easter, my evening devotions have been lengthened. But indolence and indifference has been neither conquered nor opposed. No plan of study has been pursued or formed, except that I have commonly read every week, if not on Sunday, a stated portion of the New Testament in Greek. But what is most to be considered, I have neither attempted nor formed any scheme of life by which I may do good, and please God.

One great hindrance is want of rest ; my nocturnal complaints grow less troublesome towards morning ; and I am tempted to repair the deficiencies of the night. I think, however, to try to rise every day by eight, and to

combat indolence as I shall obtain strength. Perhaps Providence has yet some use for the remnant of my life.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, whose mercy is over all Thy works, and who hast no pleasure in the death of a sinner, look with pity upon me, succour and preserve me; enable me to conquer evil habits, and surmount temptations. Give me grace so to use the degree of health which Thou hast restored to my mind and body, that I may perform the task Thou shalt yet appoint me. Look down, O gracious LORD, upon my remaining part of life; grant, if it please Thee, that the days few or many which Thou shalt yet allow me, may pass in reasonable confidence, and holy tranquillity. Withhold not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me, but strengthen all good purposes, till they shall produce a life pleasing to Thee. And when Thou shalt call me to another state, forgive me my sins, and receive me to happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Safely brought us, &c.

Sept. 23, 1771.

ON the 18th, in the morning, before I went to bed, I used the general prayer [beginning of this year] when I rose. I came home from Mr. Thrale's that I might be more master of my hours. I went to church in the morning, but came in to the Litany. I have gone voluntarily to church on the week day but few times in my life. I think to mend.

At night I composed and used the prayer, which I have used since in my devotions one morning. Having been somewhat disturbed, I have not yet settled in any plan, except that yesterday I began to learn some verses in the Greek Testament for a Sunday's recital. I hope, by trust in God, to amend my life.

Jan. 1, 2 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast permitted me to see the beginning of another year, enable me so to receive Thy mercy, as that it may raise in me stronger desires of pleasing Thee by purity of mind and holiness of life. Strengthen me, O LORD, in good purposes, and reasonable

meditations. Look with pity upon all my disorders of mind, and infirmities of body. Grant that the residue of my life may enjoy such degrees of health as may permit me to be useful, and that I may live to Thy glory ; and, O merciful LORD, when it shall please Thee to call me from the present state, enable me to die in confidence of Thy mercy, and receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our Lord. Amen.

To rise in the morning.

E A S T E R E V E .

April 18, 1772.

I AM now again preparing, by divine mercy, to commemorate the death of my gracious REDEEMER, and to form, as GOD shall enable me, resolutions and purposes of a better life.

When I review the last year, I am able to recollect so little done, that shame and sorrow, though perhaps too weakly, come upon me ; yet I have been generally free from local pain, and my strength has seemed gradually

to increase. But my sleep has generally been unquiet, and I have not been able to rise early. My mind is unsettled, and my memory confused. I have of late turned my thoughts, with a very useless earnestness, upon past incidents. I have yet got no command over my thoughts; an unpleasing incident is almost certain to hinder my rest; this is the remainder of my last illness. By sleepless or unquiet nights, and short days, made short by late rising, the time passes away uncounted and unheeded. Life so spent is useless.

I hope to cast my time into some stated method.

To let no hour pass unemployed.

To rise by degrees more early in the morning.

To keep a journal.

I have, I think, been less guilty of neglecting public worship than formerly. I have commonly on Sunday gone once to church, and if I have missed, have reproached myself.

I have exerted rather more activity of body. These dispositions I desire to improve.

I resolved, last Easter, to read within the year the whole Bible, a very great part of which I had never looked upon. I read the Greek

Testament without construing, and this day concluded the Apocalypse. I think that no part was missed.

My purpose of reading the rest of the Bible was forgotten, till I took by chance the resolutions of last Easter in my hand.

I began it the first day of Lent; and, for a time, read with some regularity. I was then disturbed or seduced, but finished the Old Testament last Thursday.

I hope to read the whole Bible once a year, as long as I live.

Yesterday I fasted, as I have always, or commonly done, since the death of Tetty. The fast was more painful than it has formerly been, which I imputed to some medicinal evacuations in the beginning of the week, and to a meal of cakes on the foregoing day. I cannot now fast as formerly.

I devoted this week to the perusal of the Bible, and have done little secular business. I am this night easier than is customary on this anniversary, but am not sensibly enlightened.

EASTER DAY.

After 12 at night.

THE day is now begun, on which I hope to begin a new course, as from a starting point.

My hopes are from this time,

To rise early.

To waste less time.

To appropriate something to charity.

EASTER.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, look down with pity upon my sinfulness and weakness. Strengthen, O LORD, my mind; deliver me from needless terrors; enable me to correct all inordinate desires, to eject all evil thoughts, to reform all sinful habits, and so to amend my life, that when at the end of my days Thou shalt call me hence, I may depart in peace, and be received into everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

9 in the morning.

GLORY be to Thee, O LORD GOD, for the deliverance which Thou hast granted me from diseases of mind and body. Grant, O gracious God, that I may employ the powers which Thou vouchsafest me to Thy glory, and the salvation of my soul, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

April 26, 1772.

I WAS some way hindered from continuing this contemplation in the usual manner, and therefore try, at the distance of a week, to review the last Sunday.

I went to church early, having first, I think, used my prayer. When I was there, I had very little perturbation of mind. During the usual time of meditation, I considered the Christian duties under the three principles of soberness, righteousness, and godliness: and purposed to forward godliness by the *annual perusal of the Bible*; righteousness by *settling something for charity*; and soberness by *early hours*. I commended as usual, with preface of permission, and, I think, mentioned Bathurst. I came home, and found Paoli

and Boswell waiting for me. What devotions I used after my return home, I do not distinctly remember. I went to prayers in the evening; and, I think, entered late.

I have this week endeavoured every day but one, to rise early, and have tried to be diligent; but have not performed what I required from myself.

On Good Friday, I paid Peyton without requiring work.

Since Easter, 1771, I have added a Collect to my evening devotion.

I have been less indulgent to corporeal inactivity. But I have done little with my mind.

It is a comfort to me, that at last, in my sixty-third year, I have attained to know, even thus hastily, confusedly, and imperfectly, what my Bible contains.

May the good God increase and sanctify my knowledge.

I have never yet read the Apocrypha. When I was a boy, I have read or heard Bel and the Dragon, Susanna, some of Tobit, perhaps all; some at least of Judith, and some of Ecclesiasticus; and, I suppose, the Benedicite. I have some time looked into the

Maccabees, and read a chapter containing the question, *Which is the strongest?* I think in Esdras.

In the afternoon of Easter Day, I read Pococke's Commentary.

I have this last week scarcely tried to read, nor have I read anything this day.

I have had my mind weak and disturbed for some weeks past.

Having missed church in the morning, I went this evening, and afterwards sat with Southwell.

Having not used the Prayer, except on the day of communion, I will offer it this night, and hope to find mercy. On this day little has been done, and this is now the last hour. In life little has been done, and life has very far advanced. **LORD**, have mercy upon me.

1773.

Jan. 1, mane 1^h. 33^m.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose mercy my life has been yet prolonged to another year, grant that Thy mercy may not be vain. Let not my years be multi-

plied to increase my guilt; but as age advances, let me become more pure in my thoughts, more regular in my desires, and more obedient to Thy laws. Let not the cares of the world distract me, nor the evils of age overwhelm me. But continue and increase Thy loving-kindness towards me; and when Thou shalt call me hence, receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 9.

ON this day I went twice to Church, and Boswell was with me. I had forborn to attend divine service for some time in the winter, having a cough which would have interrupted both my own attention and that of others; and when the cough grew less troublesome I did not regain the habit of going to church, though I did not wholly omit it. I found the service not burdensome nor tedious, though I could not hear the lessons. I hope in time to take pleasure in public worship.

On this whole day I took nothing of nourishment but one cup of tea without milk ; but the fast was very inconvenient. Towards night I grew fretful and impatient, unable to fix my mind, or govern my thoughts ; and felt a very uneasy sensation both in my stomach and head, compounded, as it seemed, of laxity and pains.

From this uneasiness, of which when I was not asleep I was sensible all night, I was relieved in the morning by drinking tea, and eating the soft part of a penny loaf.

This I have set down for future observation.

Saturday, April 10, I dined on cakes, and found myself filled and satisfied.

Saturday, 10. Having offered my prayers to God, I will now review the last year.

Of the spring and summer, I remember that I was able in those seasons to examine and improve my Dictionary, and was seldom withheld from the work but by my own unwillingness. Of my nights I have no distinct remembrance, but believe that, as in many foregoing years, they were painful and restless.

O GOD, grant that I may not mispend or lose the time which Thou shalt yet allow me. For JESUS CHRIST'S sake, have mercy upon me.

My purpose is to attain, in the remaining part of the year, as much knowledge as can easily be had of the Gospels and Pentateuch. Concerning the Hebrew I am in doubt. I hope likewise to enlarge my knowledge of divinity, by reading, at least once a week, some sermon, or small theological tract, or some portion of a larger work.

To this important and extensive study, my purpose is to appropriate (liberè) part of every Sunday, Holyday, Wednesday and Friday, and to begin with the Gospels. Perhaps I may not be able to study the Pentateuch before next year.

My general resolution, to which I humbly implore the help of GOD, is to methodise my life, to resist sloth. I hope from this time to keep a journal.

N. B. On Friday I read the first of Mark, and Clarke's Sermon on Faith.

On Saturday I read little, but wrote the foregoing account, and the following Prayer.

April 10, near midnight.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose mercy I am now about to commemorate the death of my REDEEMER, grant that from this time I may so live, as that His death may be efficacious to my eternal happiness; enable me to conquer all evil customs; deliver me from evil and vexatious thoughts; grant me light to discover my duty, and grace to perform it. As my life advances, let me become more pure, and more holy. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but grant that I may serve Thee with diligence and confidence; and when Thou shalt call me hence, receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY.

April 11, 1773.

I HAD more disturbance in the night than has been customary for some weeks past. I rose before nine in the morning, and prayed and drank tea. I came, I think, to church in

the beginning of the prayers. I did not distinctly hear the Psalms, and found that I had been reading the Psalms for Good Friday. I went through the Litany, after a short disturbance, with tolerable attention.

After sermon, I perused my prayer in the pew, then went nearer the altar, and being introduced into another pew, used my Prayer again, and recommended my relations, with Bathurst and Boothby, then my wife again by herself. Then I went nearer the altar, and read the collects chosen for meditation. I prayed for Salisbury, and, I think, the Thrales. I then communicated with calmness, used the Collect for Easter Day, and returning to the first pew, prayed my Prayer the third time. I came home; again used my Prayer and the Easter Collect. Then went into the study to Boswell, and read the Greek Testament. Then dined, and when Boswell went away, ended the four first chapters of St. Matthew, and the Beatitudes of the fifth.

I then went to Evening Prayers, and was composed.

I gave the pew-keepers each five shillings and *three-pence*.

April 12, near one in the morning. I used my Prayer, with my ordinary devotions, and hope to lead henceforward a better life.

Friday, June 18, 1773.

THIS day, after dinner, died Mrs. Salisbury; she had for some days almost lost the power of speaking. Yesterday, as I touched her hand, and kissed it, she pressed my hand between her two hands, which she probably intended as the parting caress. At night her speech returned a little; and she said, among other things, to her daughter, I have had much time, and I hope I have used it. This morning being called about nine to feel her pulse, I said at parting, God bless you, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. She smiled, as pleased. She had her senses perhaps to her dying moment.

July 22, —73.

THIS day I found this * book, with the resolutions; some of which I had forgotten, but

* A book, in which this and the preceding Meditations on Good Friday and Easter Sunday are written.

remembered my design of reading the Pentateuch and Gospels, though I have not pursued it.

Of the time past since these resolutions were made, I can give no very laudable account. Between Easter and Whitsuntide, having always considered that time as propitious to study, I attempted to learn the Low Dutch language; my application was very slight, and my memory very fallacious, though whether more than in my earlier years, I am not very certain. My progress was interrupted by a fever, which, by the imprudent use of a small print, left an inflammation in my useful eye, which was not removed but by two copious bleedings, and the daily use of catharticks for a long time. The effect yet remains.

My memory has been for a long time very much confused. Names, and persons, and events, slide away strangely from me. But I grow easier.

The other day, looking over old papers, I perceived a resolution to rise early always occurring. I think I was ashamed, or grieved, to find how long and how often I had resolved, what yet, except for about one half year, I have never done. My nights

are now such as give me no quiet rest; whether I have not lived resolving till the possibility of performance is past, I know not. God help me, I will yet try.

Talisker, in Skie, Sep. 24, 1773.

ON last Saturday was my sixty-fourth birth-day. I might perhaps have forgotten it, had not Boswell told me of it; and, what pleased me less, told the family at Dunvegan.

The last year is added to those of which little use has been made. I tried in the summer to learn Dutch, and was interrupted by an inflammation in my eye. I set out in August on this journey to Skie. I find my memory uncertain, but hope it is only by a life immethodical and scattered. Of my body, I do not perceive that exercise or change of air, has yet either encreased the strength or activity. My nights are still disturbed by flatulencies.

My hope is, for resolution I dare no longer call it, to divide my time regularly, and to keep such a journal of my time, as may give me comfort in reviewing it. But when I consider my age, and the broken state of my

body, I have great reason to fear lest death should lay hold upon me, while I am yet only designing to live. But I have yet hope.

ALMIGHTY GOD, most merciful Father, look down upon me with pity. Thou hast protected me in childhood and youth; support me, LORD, in my declining years. Preserve me from the dangers of sinful presumption. Give me, if it be best for me, stability of purposes, and tranquillity of mind. Let the year which I have now begun be spent to Thy glory, and to the furtherance of my salvation. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but as death approaches, prepare me to appear joyfully in Thy presence, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

1774.

January 1, near 2 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hatest nothing that Thou hast

made, but wouldest that all should be saved, have mercy upon me. As Thou hast extended my life, increase my strength, direct my purposes, and confirm my resolution, that I may truly serve Thee, and perform the duties which Thou shalt allot me.

Relieve, O gracious LORD, according to Thy mercy, the pains and distempers of my body, and appease the tumults of my mind. Let my faith and obedience increase as my life advances; and let the approach of death incite my desire to please Thee, and invigorate my diligence in good works, till at last, when Thou shalt call me to another state, I shall lie down in humble hope, supported by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, and be received to everlasting happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

The beginning, &c.

I hope to read the Gospels before Easter.
To rise at eight. To be temperate in food.

THIS year has past with so little improvement, that I doubt whether I have not rather im-

paired than increased my learning. To this omission, some external causes have contributed. In the winter I was distressed by a cough ; in the summer an inflammation fell upon my useful eye, from which it has not yet, I fear, recovered ; in the autumn I took a journey to the Hebrides, but my mind was not free from perturbation : yet the chief cause of my deficiency has been a life immethodical and unsettled, which breaks all purposes, confounds and suppresses memory, and perhaps leaves too much leisure to imagination. O LORD, have mercy upon me.

January 9, 1774.

1775.

Maunday Thursday, April 13.

OF the use of time, or of my commendation of myself, I thought no more ; but lost life in restless nights and broken days, till this week awakened my attention.

THIS year has passed with very little improvement, perhaps with diminution of knowledge. Much time I have not left ; infirmities oppress me. But much remains to be done. I hope *to rise at eight, or sooner, in the morning.*

Good Friday, April 14, 1775.

BOSWELL came in before I was up. We breakfasted; I only drank tea, without milk or bread. We went to church, saw Dr. Wetherel in the pew, and, by his desire, took him home with us. He did not go very soon, and Boswell staid. Boswell and I went to church, but came very late. We then took tea, by Boswell's desire; and I eat one bun, I think, that I might not seem to fast ostentatiously. Boswell sat with me till night; we had some serious talk. When he went, I gave Francis some directions for preparation to communicate. Thus has passed, hitherto, this awful day.

10.30 P.M.

WHEN I look back upon resolutions of improvement and amendment, which have year after year been made and broken, either by negligence, forgetfulness, vicious idleness, casual interruption, or morbid infirmity; when I find that so much of my life has stolen unprofitably away, and that I can descry by retrospection scarcely a few single days properly and vigorously employed; why do I yet try to resolve again? I try, because reformation is necessary, and despair is criminal. I try, in humble hope of the help of God.

As my life has, from my earliest years, been wasted in a morning bed, my purpose is from Easter Day to rise early, not later than eight.

11.15 P.M.D.j.

Easter Eve, April 15, 1775.

I rose more early than is common, after a night disturbed by flatulencies, though I had taken so little. I prayed, but my mind was unsettled, and I did not fix upon the book. After the bread and tea I trifled, and about three ordered coffee and buns for my dinner. I find more faintness and uneasiness in fasting than I did formerly.

While coffee was preparing, Collier came in, a man whom I had not seen for more than twenty years, but whom I consulted about Macky's books. We talked of old friends and past occurrences, and eat and drank together.

I then read a little in the Testament, and tried Fiddes's Body of Divinity, but did not settle.

I then went to Evening Prayer, and was tolerably composed. At my return I sat awhile, then retired, but found reading uneasy,

11 P.M.

These two days in which I fasted, I have not been sleepy, though I rested ill.

EASTER DAY.

April 16, 1775.

ALMIGHTY GOD, heavenly Father, whose mercy is over all Thy works, look with pity on my miseries and sins. Suffer me to commemorate, in Thy presence, my redemption by Thy Son JESUS CHRIST. Enable me so to repent of my mispent time, that I may pass the residue of my life in Thy fear, and to Thy glory. Relieve, O LORD, as seemeth best unto Thee, the infirmities of my body, and the perturbation of my mind. Fill my thoughts with awful love of Thy goodness, with just fear of Thine anger, and with humble confidence in Thy mercy. Let me study Thy laws, and labour in the duties which Thou shalt set before me. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but incite in me such good desires as may produce diligent endeavours after Thy glory and my own

salvation ; and when, after hopes and fears, and joys and sorrows, Thou shalt call me hence, receive me to eternal happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Collier is dead. April 7, 1776.

Transcribed from a former book, with a slight emendation or two. With that book I parted, perhaps unnecessarily, by a catch.

Sept. 18, 1775.

O GOD, by whom all things were created and are sustained, who givest and takest away, in whose hands are life and death, accept my imperfect thanks for the length of days which Thou hast vouchsafed to grant me ; impress upon my mind such repentance of the time mispent in sinfulness and negligence, that I may obtain forgiveness of all my offences ; and so calm my mind, and strengthen my resolutions, that I may live the remaining part of my life in Thy fear, and with Thy favour. Take not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me ; but *let me so love Thy laws, and so obey them,*

that I may finally be received to eternal happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD.
Amen.

Composed at Calais, in a sleepless night, and used before the morn at Notre Dame. Written at St. Omers.

1776.

Jan. 1.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hast permitted me to see the beginning of another year, grant that the time which Thou shalt yet afford me may be spent to Thy glory, and the salvation of my own soul. Strengthen all good resolutions, and take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but have mercy upon me, and shed Thy blessing both on my soul and body, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD.
Amen.

EASTER DAY.

April 7.

THE time is again at which, since the death of my poor dear Tetty, on whom God have mercy,

I have annually commemorated the mystery of Redemption, and annually purposed to amend my life. My reigning sin, to which perhaps many others are appendant, is waste of time, and general sluggishness, to which I was always inclined, and, in part of my life, have been almost compelled by morbid melancholy and disturbance of mind. Melancholy has had in me its paroxisms and remissions, but I have not improved the intervals, nor sufficiently resisted my natural inclination, or sickly habits. I will resolve, henceforth, to rise at eight in the morning, so far as resolution is proper, and will pray that God will strengthen me. I have begun this morning.

Though for the past week I have had an anxious design of communicating to-day, I performed no particular act of devotion, till on Friday I went to church. My design was to pass part of the day in exercises of piety, but Mr. Boswell interrupted me; of him, however, I could have rid myself, but poor Thrale, *orbis et exspes*, came for comfort, and sat till Seven, when we all went to church.

In the morning I had at church some radiations of comfort.

I fasted, though less rigorously than at other times. I, by negligence, poured milk into the tea, and, in the afternoon, drank one dish of coffee with Thrale; yet at night, after a fit of drowsiness, I felt myself very much disordered by emptiness, and called for tea with peevish and impatient eagerness. My distress was very great.

Yesterday, I do not recollect that to go to church came into my thoughts; but I sat in my chamber, preparing for preparation; interrupted, I know not how. I was near two hours at dinner.

I go now with hope,

To rise in the morning at eight.

To use my remaining time with diligence.

To study more accurately the Christian Religion.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast preserved me, by Thy tender forbearance, once more to commemorate Thy love in the redemption of the world; grant that I may so live the residue of my days, as to obtain Thy mercy when Thou shalt call me from the present state.

Illuminate my thoughts with knowledge, and inflame my thoughts with holy desires. Grant me to resolve well, and keep my resolutions; take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but in life and in death have mercy on me, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

Acts of forgiveness.

P.M. In the pew I read my Prayer, and commended my friends, and those that died this year. At the altar I was generally attentive; some thoughts of vanity came into my mind while others were communicating; but I found, when I considered them, that they did not tend to irreverence of God. At the altar I renewed my resolutions. When I received, some tender images struck me. I was so mollified by the concluding address of our SAVIOUR, that I could not utter it. The communicants were mostly women. At intervals I read Collects, and recollected, as I could, my Prayer. Since my return, I have said it. 2 P.M.

May 21, 1776.

These resolutions I have not practised nor recollected. O God, grant me to begin now, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

July 25, 1776.

O GOD, who hast ordained that whatever is to be desired, should be sought by labour, and who, by Thy blessing, bringest honest labour to good effect ; look with mercy upon my studies and endeavours. Grant me, O LORD, to design only what is lawful and right ; and afford me calmness of mind, and steadiness of purpose, that I may so do Thy Will in this short life, as to obtain happiness in the world to come, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

When I purposed to apply vigorously to study, particularly of the Greek and Italian tongues.

1777.

January 1, 2 P.M.

ALMIGHTY LORD, merciful Father, vouchsafe to accept the thanks which I now presume to offer Thee, for the prolongation of my life. Grant, O LORD, that as my days are multiplied, my good resolutions may be strengthened, my power of

resisting temptations increased, and my struggles with snares and obstructions invigorated. Relieve the infirmities both of my mind and body. Grant me such strength as my duties may require, and such diligence as may improve those opportunities of good that shall be offered me. Deliver me from the intrusion of evil thoughts. Grant me true repentance of my past life; and as I draw nearer and nearer to the grave, strengthen my faith, enliven my hope, extend my charity and purify my desires; and so help me, by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that when it shall be Thy pleasure to call me hence, I may be received to everlasting happiness, for the sake of Thy SON JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Our Father—

March 28.

THIS day is Good Friday. It is likewise the day on which my poor Tetty was taken from me.

My thoughts were disturbed in bed. I remembered that it was my wife's dying day, and begged pardon for all our sins, and commended her; but resolved to mix little

of my own sorrows or cares with the great solemnity. Having taken only tea, without milk, I went to church; had time, before service, to commend my wife, and wished to join quietly in the service, but I did not hear well, and my mind grew unsettled and perplexed. Having rested ill in the night, I slumbered at the sermon, which, I think, I could not, as I sat, perfectly hear.

I returned home, but could not settle my mind. At last I read a chapter. Then went down, about six or seven, and eat two cross-buns, and drank tea. Fasting for some time has been uneasy, and I have taken but little.

At night I had some ease. L. D. I had prayed for pardon and peace.

I slept in the afternoon.

29, Easter Eve.

I ROSE, and again prayed, with reference to my departed wife. I neither read nor went to church, yet can scarcely tell how I have been hindered. I treated with booksellers on a bargain, but the time was not long.

30, Easter Day, imâ mane.

THE day is now come again, in which, by a custom which since the death of my wife I have by the divine assistance always observed I am to renew the great covenant with my Maker and my Judge. I humbly hope to perform it better. I hope for more efficacy of resolution, and more diligence of endeavour. When I survey my past life, I discover nothing but a barren waste of time, with some disorders of body, and disturbances of the mind very near to madness, which I hope He that made me, will suffer to extenuate many faults, and excuse many deficiencies. Yet much remains to be repented and reformed. I hope that I refer more to God than in former times, and consider more what submission is due to His dispensations. But I have very little reformed my practical life; and the time in which I can struggle with habits cannot be now expected to be long. Grant, O God, that I may no longer resolve in vain, or dream away the life which Thy indulgence gives me, in vacancy and uselessness.

9nâ mane.

I went to bed about two, had a disturbed night, though not so distressful as at some other times.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who seest all our miseries, and knowest all our necessities, look down upon me, and pity me. Defend me from the violent incursions of evil thoughts, and enable me to form and keep such resolutions as may conduce to the discharge of the duties which Thy providence shall appoint me; and so help me, by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that my heart may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found, and that I may serve Thee with pure affection and a cheerful mind. Have mercy upon me, O God, have mercy upon me; years and infirmities oppress me, terrour and anxiety beset me. Have mercy upon me, my Creator and my Judge. In all dangers protect me, in all perplexities relieve and free me, and so help me by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that I may now so commemorate the death of Thy SON our SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, as that when this short and painful life shall have an end, I may, for His sake, be received to everlasting happiness. Amen.

April 6, 1777.

By one strange hindrance or another, I have been withheld from the continuation of my thoughts to this day, the Sunday following Easter day.

On Easter Day I was at church early, and there prayed over my Prayer, and commended Tetty and my other friends. I was for some time much distressed, but at last obtained, I hope from the God of Peace, more quiet than I have enjoyed for a long time. I had made no resolution, but as my heart grew lighter, my hopes revived, and my courage increased; and I wrote with my pencil in my Common Prayer Book,

Vita ordinanda.
Biblia legenda.
Theologiæ opera danda.
Serviendum et lætandum.
Scrupulis obsistendum. *

I then went to the altar, having, I believe, again read my Prayer. I then went to the table and communicated, praying for some time afterwards, but the particular matter of my Prayer I do not remember.

I dined, by an appointment, with Mrs. Gardiner, and passed the afternoon with such calm

* This line is omitted in all preceding Editions.

gladness of mind as it is very long since I felt before. I came home, and began to read the Bible. I passed the night in such sweet uninterrupted sleep, as I have not known since I slept at Fort Augustus.

On Monday I dined with Sheward, on Tuesday with Paradise. The mornings have been devoured by company, and one intrusion has, through the whole week, succeeded to another.

At the beginning of the year I proposed to myself a scheme of life, and a plan of study; but neither life has been rectified, nor study followed. Days and months pass in a dream; and I am afraid that my memory grows less tenacious, and my observation less attentive. If I am decaying, it is time to make haste. My nights are restless and tedious, and my days drowsy. The flatulence which torments me, has sometimes so obstructed my breath, that the act of respiration became not only voluntary but laborious in a decumbent posture. By copious bleeding I was relieved, but not cured.

I have this year omitted church on most Sundays, intending to supply the deficiency in the week. So that I owe twelve attendances on worship. I will make no more such super-

stitious stipulations, which entangle the mind with unbidden obligations.

My purpose once more, O Thou merciful Creator that governest all our hearts and actions,—“guiding the rudder of my life,”—let not my purpose be vain:—My purpose once more is,

To rise at Eight.

To keep a journal.

To read the whole Bible, in some language, before Easter.

To gather the arguments for Christianity.

To worship God more frequently in public.

Ashbourn, Sept. 18, 1777.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast brought me to the beginning of another year, grant me so to remember Thy gifts, and so to acknowledge Thy goodness, as that every year and day which Thou shalt yet grant me, may be employed in the amendment of my life, and in the diligent discharge of such duties as Thy providence shall allot me. Grant me, by

Thy grace, to know and to do what Thou requirest. Give me good desires, and remove those impediments which may hinder them from effect. Forgive me my sins, negligences, and ignorances; and when at last Thou shalt call me to another life, receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

1778.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 17.

It has happened this week, as it never happened in Passion Week before, that I have never dined at home, and I have therefore neither practised abstinence nor peculiar devotion.

This morning, before I went to bed, I enlarged my prayers, by adding some collects with reference to the day. I rested moderately, and rose about nine, which is more early than is usual. I think I added something to my morning prayers. Boswell came in to go to church; we had tea, but I did not eat. Talk lost our time, and we came to church late, at the Second Lesson. My mind has been for some time feeble and impressible,

and some trouble it gave me in the morning ; but I went with some confidence and calmness through the prayers.

In my return from church, I was accosted by Edwards, an old fellow collegian, who had not seen me since 1729. He knew me, and asked if I remembered one Edwards ; I did not at first recollect the name, but gradually, as we walked along, recovered it, and told him a conversation that had passed at an alehouse between us. My purpose is to continue our acquaintance.

We sat till the time of worship in the afternoon, and then came again late, at the Psalms. Not easily, I think, hearing the sermon, or not being attentive, I fell asleep. When we came home we had tea, and I eat two buns, being somewhat uneasy with fasting, and not being alone. If I had not been observed I should probably have fasted.

E A S T E R D A Y .

April 19, after 12 at night.

O LORD have mercy upon me.

Yesterday (18) I rose late, having not slept ill. Having promised a dedication, I thought it

necessary to write ; but for some time neither wrote nor read. Langton came in and talked. After dinner I wrote. At tea Boswell came in. He staid till near twelve.

I purposed to have gone in the evening to church, but missed the hour.

Edwards observed how many we have outlived. I hope, yet hope, that my future life shall be better than my past.

From the year 1752, the year in which my poor dear Tetty died, upon whose soul may GOD have had mercy for the sake of JESUS CHRIST, I have received the Sacrament every year at Easter. My purpose is to receive it now. O LORD GOD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST, make it effectual to my salvation.

My purposes are,

To study divinity, particularly the evidences of Christianity.

To read the New Testament over in the year, with more use than hitherto of commentators.

To be diligent in my undertakings.

To serve and trust God, and be cheerful.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, suffer me once more to commemorate the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST, my SAVIOUR and REDEEMER, and make the memorial of His death profitable to my salvation, by strengthening my faith in His merits, and quickening my obedience to His laws. Remove from me, O God, all inordinate desires, all corrupt passions, and all vain terrours, and fill me with zeal for Thy glory, and with confidence in Thy mercy. Make me to love all men, and enable me to use Thy gifts, whatever Thou shalt bestow, to the benefit of my fellow-creatures. So lighten the weight of years, and so mitigate the afflictions of disease, that I may continue fit for Thy service, and useful in my station. And so let me pass through this life, by the guidance of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that at last I may enter into eternal joy, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

HAVING gone to bed about two, I rose about nine, and, having prayed, went to church. I came early, and used this prayer. After

sermon I again used my prayer; the Collect for the day I repeated several times, at least the petitions. I recommended my friends. At the altar I prayed earnestly, and when I came home, prayed for pardon and peace; repeated my own prayer, and added the petitions of the Collect.

O GOD, have mercy upon me, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

At my return home, I returned thanks for the opportunity of Communion.

I was called down to Mrs. Nollkens. Boswell came in; then dinner. After dinner, which I believe was late, I read the First Epistle to Thess.; then went to Evening Prayers; then came to tea, and afterwards tried Vossius de Baptismo. I was sleepy.

Monday, April 20, 1778.

AFTER a good night, as I am forced to reckon, I rose seasonably, and prayed, using the Collect for yesterday.

In reviewing my time from Easter, 1777, I found a very melancholy and shameful blank. So little has been done, that days and months

are without any trace. My health has, indeed, been very much interrupted. My nights have been commonly, not only restless, but painful and fatiguing. My respiration was once so difficult, that an asthma was suspected. I could not walk, but with great difficulty, from Stowhill to Greenhill. Some relaxation of my breast has been procured, I think, by opium, which, though it never gives me sleep, frees my breast from spasms.

I have written a little of the Lives of the Poets, I think with all my usual vigour. I have made sermons, perhaps as readily as formerly. My memory is less faithful in retaining names, and, I am afraid, in retaining occurrences. Of this vacillation and vagrancy of mind, I impute a great part to a fortuitous and unsettled life, and therefore purpose to spend my time with more method.

This year, the 28th of March passed away without memorial. Poor Tetty, whatever were our faults and failings, we loved each other. I did not forget thee yesterday. Couldst thou have lived!—

I am now, with the help of God, to begin a new life.

1779.

Jan. 1, before 1 in the morning.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hast granted to me the beginning of another year, grant that I may employ Thy gifts to Thy glory, and my own salvation. Excite me to amend my life; give me good resolutions, and enable me to perform them. As I approach the grave, let my faith be invigorated, my hope exalted, and my charity enlarged. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT; but in the course of my life protect me, in the hour of death sustain me, and finally receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 2.

AFTER a night restless and oppressive, I rose this morning somewhat earlier than is usual; and having taken tea, which was very necessary to compose the disorder in my breast, having eaten nothing, I went to church with

Boswell. We came late; I was able to attend the Litany with little perturbation. When we came home, I began the First to the Thess., having prayed by the Collect for the right use of the Scriptures. I gave Boswell *Les Pensées de Pascal*, that he might not interrupt me. I did not, I believe, read very diligently; and before I had read far, we went to church again. I was again attentive. At home I read again, then drank tea, with a bun and an half, thinking myself less able to fast than at former times; and then concluded the Epistle. Being much oppressed with drowsiness, I slept about an hour by the fire.

11 P. M.

I am now to review the last year, and find little but dismal vacuity, neither business nor pleasure; much intended, and little done. My health is much broken; my nights afford me little rest. I have tried opium, but its help is counterbalanced with great disturbance; it prevents the spasms, but it hinders sleep. O God, have mercy on me.

Last week I published [the first part of] the Lives of the Poets, written, I hope, in such a manner as may tend to the promotion of piety.

In this last year I have made little acquisition ; I have scarcely read anything. I maintain Mrs. ——— and her daughter. Other good of myself I know not where to find, except a little charity.

But I am now in my seventieth year ; what can be done ought not to be delayed.

EASTER EVE.

April 3, 1779, 11 P.M.

THIS is the time of my annual review, and annual resolution. The review is comfortless, little done. Part of the Life of Dryden and the Life of Milton have been written ; but my mind has neither been improved nor enlarged. I have read little, almost nothing. And I am not conscious that I have gained any good, or quitted any evil habits.

Of resolutions I have made so many with so little effect, that I am almost weary, but, by the help of God, am not yet hopeless. Good resolutions must be made and kept. I am almost seventy years old, and have no time to lose. The distressful restlessness of my nights makes it difficult to settle the course of my days. Something, however, let me do.

EASTER DAY.

April 4, 1779.

I ROSE about half an hour after nine, transcribed the prayer written last night ; and by neglecting to count time, sat too long at breakfast, so that I came to church at the First Lesson. I attended the Litany pretty well ; but in the pew could not hear the Communion Service, and missed the prayer for the Church Militant. Before I went to the altar, I prayed the occasional prayer. At the altar I commended my $\Theta \Phi$, and again prayed the prayer ; I then prayed the Collects, and again my own prayer by memory. I left out a clause. I then received, I hope with earnestness ; and while others received, sat down ; but thinking that posture, though usual, improper, I rose and stood. I prayed again in the pew, but with what prayer I have forgotten.

When I used the occasional prayer at the altar, I added a general purpose,—To avoid idleness.

I gave two shillings to the plate.

Before I went, I used, I think, my prayer, and endeavoured to calm my mind. After my return I used it again, and the Collect for *the day*. LORD, have mercy upon me.

I have for some nights called Francis to prayers, and last night discoursed with him on the Sacrament.

EASTER DAY.

April, 4, 1779.

Purposes,

To rise at eight, or as soon as I can.

To read the Scriptures.

To study religion.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by Thy merciful continuance of my life, I come once more to commemorate the sufferings and death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST, and to implore that mercy which, for His sake, Thou shewest to sinners. Forgive me, my sins, O LORD, and enable me to forsake them. Ease, if it shall please Thee, the anxieties of my mind, and relieve the infirmities of my body. Let me not be disturbed by unnecessary terrours, and let not the

weakness of age make me unable to amend my life. O LORD, take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but receive my petitions, succour and comfort me, and let me so pass the remainder of my days, that when Thou shalt call me hence, I may enter into eternal happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1779, H. P. M. 12 m^a.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator of all things, in whose hands are life and death, glory be to Thee for all Thy mercies, and for the prolongation of my life to the common age of man. Pardon me, O gracious God, all the offences which in the course of seventy years I have committed against Thy holy laws, and all negligences of those duties which Thou hast required. Look with pity upon me, take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but enable me to pass the days which Thou shalt yet vouchsafe to grant me, in Thy fear, and to Thy glory; and accept, O LORD, the remains of a *mis-spent* life, that when Thou shalt call me to

another state, I may be received to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Epsom.

My purpose is to communicate at least thrice a year.

To study the Scriptures.

To be diligent.

1780.

January 1, H. 1, A.M.

ALMIGHTY GOD, my Creator and Preserver, by whose mercy my life has been continued to the beginning of another year, grant me, with increase of days, increase of holiness; that as I live longer, I may be better prepared to appear before Thee, when Thou shalt call me from my present state.

Make me, O LORD, truly thankful for the mercy which Thou hast vouchsafed to shew me through my whole life; make me thankful for the health which Thou hast

restored in the last year, and let the remains of my strength and life be employed to Thy glory and my own salvation.

Take not, O LORD, Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me; enable me to avoid or overcome all that may hinder my advancement in godliness; let me be no longer idle, no longer sinful; but give me rectitude of thought and constancy of action, and bring me at last to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD and SAVIOUR. Amen.

Sunday, June 18.

IN the morning of this day last year, I perceived the remission of those convulsions in my breast, which had distressed me for more than twenty years. I returned thanks at church for the mercy granted me, which has now continued a year.

THANKSGIVING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Creator and Preserver, from whom proceedeth all good, enable me to receive, with humble

acknowledgment of Thy unbounded benignity, and with due consciousness of my own unworthiness, that recovery and continuance of health which Thou had granted me, and vouchsafe to accept the thanks which I now offer. Glory be to Thee, O LORD, for this and all Thy mercies. Grant, I beseech Thee, that the health and life which Thou shalt yet allow me, may conduce to my eternal happiness. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT; but so help and bless me, that when Thou shalt call me hence, I may obtain pardon and salvation, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

Sept. 18, 1780.

I AM now beginning the seventy-second year of my life, with more strength of body and greater vigour of mind than I think is common at that age. But though the convulsions in my breast are relieved, my sleep is seldom long. My nights are wakeful, and therefore I am sometimes sleepy in the day. I have been attentive to my diet, and have diminished the bulk of my body. I have not

at all studied, nor written diligently. I have Swift and Pope yet to write; Swift is just begun.

I have forgotten or neglected my resolutions or purposes, which I now humbly and timorously renew. Surely I shall not spend my whole life with my own total disapprobation. Perhaps God may grant me now to begin a wiser and a better life.

ALMIGHTY GOD, my Creator and Preserver, who hast permitted me to begin another year, look with mercy upon my wretchedness and frailty. Rectify my thoughts, relieve my perplexities, strengthen my purposes, and reform my doings. Let increase of years bring increase of faith, hope, and charity. Grant me diligence in whatever work Thy providence shall appoint me. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but let me pass the remainder of the days which Thou shalt yet allow me, in Thy fear and to Thy glory; and when it shall be Thy good pleasure to call me hence, grant me, O LORD, forgiveness of my sins, and receive me to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

1781.

January 2.

I WAS yesterday hindered by my old disease of mind, and therefore begin to-day.

January 1.

HAVING sat in my chamber till the year began, I used my accommodation of the Morning Prayer *to the beginning of this year*, and slept remarkably well, though I had supped liberally. In the morning I went to church. Then I wrote letters for Mrs. Desmoulins; then went to Streatham, and had many stops. At night I took wine, and did not sleep well.

January 2, 1781.

I ROSE according to my resolution, and am now to begin another year; I hope with amendment of life. I will not despair. Help me, help me, O my GOD. My hope is,

To rise at eight or sooner.

To read the Bible through this year, in some language.

To keep a journal.

To study religion.

To avoid idleness.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, who hast granted me such continuance of life, that I now see the beginning of another year, look with mercy upon me; as Thou grantest increase of years, grant increase of grace. Let me live to repent what I have done amiss, and by Thy help so to regulate my future life, that I may obtain mercy when I appear before Thee, through the merits of JESUS CHRIST. Enable me, O LORD, to do my duty with a quiet mind; and take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but protect and bless me, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY.

April 13, 1781.

I FORGOT my prayer and resolutions, till two days ago I found this paper.

Sometime in March I finished the Lives of the Poets, which I wrote in my usual way, dilatorily and hastily, unwilling to work, and working with vigour and haste.

On Wednesday 11, was buried my dear friend Thrale, who died on Wednesday 4; and with

him were buried many of my hopes and pleasures. About five, I think, on Wednesday morning he expired; I felt almost the last flutter of his pulse, and looked for the last time upon the face that for fifteen years had never been turned upon me but with respect or benignity. Farewell. May God, that delighteth in mercy, have had mercy on thee.

I had constantly prayed for him some time before his death.

The decease of him, from whose friendship I had obtained many opportunities of amusement, and to whom I turned my thoughts as to a refuge from misfortunes, has left me heavy. But my business is with myself.

September 18.

My first knowledge of Thrale was in 1765. I enjoyed his favour for almost a fourth part of my life.

E A S T E R E V E .

April 14, 1781.

ON Good Friday I took, in the afternoon, some coffee and buttered cake; and to-day, I had a little bread at breakfast, and potatoes and

apples in the afternoon, the tea with a little toast ; but I find myself feeble and unsustained, and suspect that I cannot bear to fast so long as formerly.

This day I read some of Clarke's Sermons. I hope that since my last communion I have advanced, by pious reflections, in my submission to God and my benevolence to man ; but I have corrected no external habits, nor have kept any of the resolutions made in the beginning of the year ; yet I hope still to be reformed, and not to lose my whole life in idle purposes. Many years are already gone, irrevocably past, in useless misery ; that what remains may be spent better, grant, O God.

By this awful festival is particularly recommended newness of life ; and a new life I will now endeavour to begin, by more diligent application to useful employment, and more frequent attendance on public worship.

I again, with hope of help from the God of mercy, resolve,

To avoid idleness.

To read the Bible.

To study religion.

ALMIGHTY GOD, merciful Father, by whose protection I have been preserved, and by whose clemency I have been spared, grant that the life which Thou hast so long continued may be no longer wasted in idleness, or corrupted by wickedness. Let my future purposes be good, and let not my good purposes be vain. Free me, O LORD, from vain terrours, and strengthen me in diligent obedience to Thy laws. Take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but enable me so to commemorate the death of my SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST, that I may be made partaker of His merits; and may finally, for His sake, obtain everlasting happiness. Amen.

EASTER SUNDAY.

1781.

I ROSE after eight, and breakfasted; then went early to church, and before service read the prayer for the Church Militant. I commended my Θ * friends, as I have formerly done. I was one of the last that communicated. When I came home I was hindered by visitants, but found time to pray before dinner. God, send Thy blessing upon me.

• Sic MS.

Monday, April 16.

At night I had some mental vellications, or revulsions. I prayed in my chamber with Frank, and read the first Sunday in the Duty of Man, in which I had, till then, only looked by compulsion or by chance.

This day I repeated my prayer, and hope to be heard.

I have, I thank God, received the Sacrament every year at Easter since the death of my poor dear Tetty. I once felt some temptation to omit it, but I was preserved from compliance. This was the thirtieth Easter.

June 22, 1781.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the giver of all good, enable me to remember with due thankfulness, the comforts and advantages which I have enjoyed by the friendship of Henry Thrale, for whom, so far as is lawful, I humbly implore Thy mercy in his present state. O LORD, since Thou hast been pleased to call him from this world, look with mercy on those whom he has left; continue to succour me by such means as are best for me, and repay

to his relations the kindness which I have received from him ; protect them in this world from temptations and calamities, and grant them happiness in the world to come, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

September, 2, 1781.

WHEN Thrale's health was broken, for many months I think before his death, which happened April 4, I constantly mentioned him in my prayers ; and after his death, have made particular supplication for his surviving family to this day.

September 18.

THIS is my seventy-third birth-day, an awful day. I said a preparatory prayer last night, and waking early, made use, in the dark, as I sat up in bed, of the prayer [beginning of this year]. I rose, breakfasted, and gave thanks at church for my creation, preservation, and redemption. As I came home, I thought I had never begun any period of life so placidly. I read the Second Epistle to the Thessalonians, and looked into Hammond's

Notes. I have always been accustomed to let this day pass unnoticed, but it came this time into my mind that some little festivity was not improper. I had a dinner, and invited Allen and Levett.

What has passed in my thoughts on this anniversary, is in stitched book K.*

My purposes are the same as on the first day of this year, to which I add hope of

More frequent attendance on public worship.

Participation of the Sacrament at least three times a year.

Sept. 18, Vesp. 10.40, circ.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who hast added another year to my life, and yet permittest me to call upon Thee, grant that the remaining days which Thou shalt yet allow me, may be past in Thy fear and to Thy glory. Grant me good resolutions and steady perseverance. Relieve the diseases of my body, and compose the disquiet of my mind. Let me at last repent and amend my life; and, O

* This Book is not in the Editor's possession.

LORD, take not from me Thy HOLY SPIRIT, but assist my amendment, and accept my repentance, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

Sunday, October 14, 1781.
(properly Monday morning).

I AM this day about to go by Oxford and Birmingham to Lichfield and Ashbourne. The motives of my journey I hardly know. I omitted it last year, and am not willing to miss it again. Mrs. Aston will be glad, I think, to see me. We are both old, and if I put off my visit, I may see her no more; perhaps she wishes for another interview. She is a very good woman.

Hector is likewise an old friend, the only companion of my childhood that passed through the school with me. We have always loved one another. Perhaps we may be made better by some serious conversation, of which however I have no distinct hope.

At Lichfield, my native place, I hope to shew a good example, by frequent attendance on public worship.

At Ashbourne, I hope to talk seriously with ———.

1782.

March 18.

HAVING been, from the middle of January, distressed by a cold which made my respiration very laborious, and from which I was but little relieved by being blooded three times; having tried to ease the oppression of my breast by frequent opiates, which kept me waking in the night and drowsy the next day, and subjected me to the tyranny of vain imaginations; having to all this added frequent catharticks, sometimes with mercury, I at last persuaded Dr. Laurence, on Thursday, March 14, to let me bleed more copiously. Sixteen ounces were taken away, and from that time my breath has been free, and my breast easy. On that day I took little food, and no flesh. On Thursday night I slept with great tranquillity. On the next night (15) I took diacodium, and had a most restless night. Of the next day I remember nothing, but that I rose in the afternoon, and saw Mrs. Lennox and Sheward.

Sunday, 17. I lay late, and had only palfrey to dinner. I read part of Waller's Directory, a pious rational book; but in any except a very regular life difficult to practise.

It occurred to me, that though my time might pass unemployed, no more should pass un-

counted, and this has been written to-day, in consequence of that thought. I read a Greek chapter, prayed with Francis, which I now do commonly, and explained to him the LORD'S Prayer, in which I find connection not observed, I think, by the expositors. I made punch for myself and my servants, by which, in the night, I thought both my breast and imagination disordered.

March 18. I rose late, looked a little into books. Saw Miss Reynolds and Miss Thrale, and Nicolaida; afterwards Dr. Hunter came for his catalogue. I then dined on tea, &c.; then read over part of Dr. Laurence's book *De Temperamentis*, which seems to have been written with a troubled mind.

My mind has been for some time much disturbed.
The peace of God be with me.

I hope to-morrow to finish Laurence, and to write to Mrs. Aston, and to Lucy.

19. I rose late. I was visited by Mrs. Thrale, Mr. Cotton, and Mr. Crofts. I took Laurence's paper in hand, but was chill; having fasted yesterday, I was hungry, and dined freely, then slept a little, and drank tea; then took candles and wrote to Aston and Lucy, then went on with Laurence, of which little remains. I prayed with Francis.

Mens sedatior, laus Deo.

To-morrow Shaw comes. I think to finish Laurence, and write to Langton.

Poor Laurence has almost lost the sense of hearing; and I have lost the conversation of a learned, intelligent, and communicative companion, and a friend whom long familiarity has much endeared. Laurence is one of the best men whom I have known.

Nostrum omnium miserere Deus.

20. Shaw came; I finished reading Laurence. I dined liberally. Wrote a long letter to Langton, and designed to read, but was hindered by Strahan. The ministry is dissolved. I prayed with Francis, and gave thanks.

To-morrow—To Mrs. Thrale—To write to Hector—To Dr. Taylor.

21. I went to Mrs. Thrale. Mr. Cox and Paradise met me at the door, and went with me in the coach. Paradise's loss. In the evening wrote to Hector. At night there were eleven visitants. Conversation with Mr. Cox. When I waked I saw the pent-houses covered with snow.

22. I spent the time idly. Mens turbata. In the afternoon it snowed. At night I wrote to Taylor about the pot, and to Hamilton about the Fœdera.

23. I came home, and found that Desmoulins had, while I was away, been in bed. Letters from Langton and Boswell. I promised L—— six guineas.

24. Sunday. I rose not early. Visitors Allen, Davis, Windham, Dr. Horsley. Dinner at Strahan's. Came home and chatted with Williams, and read Romans ix in Greek.

To-morrow begin again to read the Bible; put rooms in order; copy L——'s letter. At night I read 11 p. and something more, of the Bible, in fifty-five minutes.

26. Tu. I copied L——'s letter. Then wrote to Mrs. Thrale. Cox visited me. I sent home Dr. Laurence's papers, with notes. I gave D—— a guinea, and found her a gown.

27. W.—At Harley-street. Bad nights—in the evening Dr. Bromfield and his family—Merlin's steelyard given me.

28. Th. I came home. Sold Rymer for Davies; wrote to Boswell. Visitors Dr. Percy, Mr. Crofts. I have, in ten days, written to Aston, Lucy, Hector, Langton, Boswell; perhaps to all by whom my letters are desired.

The weather, which now begins to be warm, gives me great help. I have hardly been at

church this year ; certainly not since the 15th of January. My cough and difficulty of breath would not permit it.

This is the day on which, in 1752, my poor dear Tetty died. I have now uttered a prayer of repentance and contrition ; perhaps Tetty knows that I prayed for her. Perhaps Tetty is now praying for me. God help me. Thou, God, art merciful, hear my prayers, and enable me to trust in Thee.

We were married almost seventeen years, and have now been parted thirty.

I then read 11 p. from Ex. 36. to Lev. 7, I prayed with Fr. and used the prayer for Good Friday.

29. Good Friday. After a night of great disturbance and solicitude, such as I do not remember, I rose, drank tea, but without eating, and went to church. I was very composed, and coming home, read Hammond on one of the Psalms for the day. I then read Leviticus. Scott came in. A kind letter from Gastrel. I read on, then went to evening prayers, and afterwards drank tea, with buns ; then read till I finished Leviticus 24 pages et sup.

To write to Gastrel to-morrow.

To look again into Hammond.

30. Sat. Visitors Paradise, and I think Horsley. Read 11 pages of the Bible. I was faint; dined on herrings and potatoes. At prayers, I think, in the evening. I wrote to Gastrel, and received a kind letter from Hector. At night Lowe. Pr. with Francis.
31. Easter Day. Read 15 pages of the Bible. *Cætera alibi.*
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AT THE TABLE.

ALMIGHTY GOD, by whose mercy I am now permitted to commemorate my Redemption by our LORD JESUS CHRIST; grant that this awful remembrance may strengthen my faith, enliven my hope, and increase my charity; that I may trust in Thee with my whole heart, and do good according to my power. Grant me the help of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that I may do Thy will with diligence, and suffer it with humble patience; so that when Thou shalt call me to judgment, I may obtain forgiveness and acceptance, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD and SAVIOUR. Amen.

AT DEPARTURE, OR AT HOME.

GRANT, I beseech Thee, merciful LORD, that the designs of a new and better life, which by Thy grace I have now formed, may not pass away without effect. Incite and enable me, by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, to improve the time which Thou shalt grant me; to avoid all evil thoughts, words, and actions; and to do all the duties which Thou shalt set before me. Hear my prayer, O LORD, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

These Prayers I wrote for Mrs. Lucy Porter,* in the latter end of the year 1782, and transcribed them October 9, 1784.

ON LEAVING MR. THRALE'S FAMILY.

October 6, 1782.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Father of all mercy, help me by Thy grace, that I may with humble and sincere thankfulness remember the comforts and conveniences which I have enjoyed at this place, and

* Daughter in law to Dr. Johnson, and lately living at Lichfield.

that I may resign them with holy submission, equally trusting in Thy protection when Thou givest and when Thou takest away. Have mercy upon me, O LORD, have mercy upon me.

To Thy Fatherly protection, O LORD, I commend this family. Bless, guide, and defend them, that they may so pass through this world, as finally to enjoy in Thy presence everlasting happiness, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

O LORD, so far as, &c.—Thrale.

October 7.

I was called early. I packed up my bundles, and used the foregoing Prayer, with my morning devotions, somewhat, I think, enlarged. Being earlier than the family, I read St. Paul's farewell in the Acts, and then read fortuitously in the Gospels, which was my parting use of the library.

1783.

September 6.

I HAD JUST HEARD OF WILLIAMS'S DEATH.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who art the LORD of life and death, who givest and who takest away, teach me to adore Thy providence, whatever Thou shalt allot me; make me to remember, with due thankfulness, the comforts which I have received from my friendship with Anna* Williams. Look upon her, O LORD, with mercy, and prepare me, by Thy grace, to die with hope, and to pass by death to eternal happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

 1784.

EASTER DAY.

April 11.

ALMIGHTY GOD, my Creator and my Judge, who givest life and takest it away, enable me to return sincere and

* [This Lady, who was afflicted with blindness, lived many years with Dr. Johnson, and died in his house. She wrote several Poems, which were published in one volume 4to, 1766.]

humble thanks for my late deliverance from imminent death ; so govern my future life by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, that every day which Thou shalt permit to pass over me, may be spent in Thy service, and leave me less tainted with wickedness, and more submissive to Thy will.

Enable me, O LORD, to glorify Thee, for that knowledge of my corruption, and that sense of Thy wrath, which my disease, and weakness, and danger, awakened in my mind. Give me such sorrow as may purify my heart, such indignation as may quench all confidence in myself, and such repentance as may, by the intercession of my REDEEMER, obtain pardon. Let the commemoration of the sufferings and death of Thy Son, which I am now, by Thy favour, once more permitted to make, fill me with faith, hope, and charity. Let my purposes be good, and my resolutions unshaken ; and let me not be hindered or distracted by vain and useless fears, but through the time which yet remains, guide me by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, and finally receive me to everlasting life, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD and SAVIOUR. Amen.

AGAINST INQUISITIVE AND PERPLEXING
THOUGHTS.

August 12, 1784.

O LORD, my Maker and Protector, who hast graciously sent me into this world to work out my salvation, enable me to drive from me all such unquiet and perplexing thoughts as may mislead or hinder me in the practice of those duties which Thou hast required. When I behold the works of Thy hands, and consider the course of Thy providence, give me grace always to remember that Thy thoughts are not my thoughts, nor Thy ways my ways. And while it shall please Thee to continue me in this world, where much is to be done, and little to be known, teach me, by Thy HOLY SPIRIT, to withdraw my mind from unprofitable and dangerous inquiries, from difficulties vainly curious, and doubts impossible to be solved. Let me rejoice in the light which Thou hast imparted, let me serve Thee with active zeal and humble confidence, and wait with patient expectation for the time in which the soul which Thou receivest shall be satisfied with knowledge. Grant this, O LORD, for JESUS CHRIST'S sake. Amen.

Ashbourne, August 28, 1784.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who afflictest not willingly the children of men, and by whose holy will — now languishes in sickness and pain, make, I beseech Thee, this punishment effectual to those gracious purposes for which Thou sendest it; let it, if I may presume to ask, end not in death, but in repentance; let him live to promote Thy kingdom on earth, by the useful example of a better life; but if Thy will be to call him hence, let his thoughts be so purified by his sufferings, that he may be admitted to eternal happiness. And, O Lord, by praying for him, let me be admonished to consider my own sins, and my own danger, to remember the shortness of life, and to use the time which Thy mercy grants me to Thy glory and my own salvation, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

[The following Prayer was composed and used by Doctor Johnson previous to his receiving the Sacrament of the LORD'S Supper, on Sunday, December, 5, 1784.]

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, I am now, as to human eyes it seems, about to commemorate, for the last* time, the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST our SAVIOUR and REDEEMER. Grant, O Lord, that my whole hope and confidence may be in His merits, and Thy mercy; enforce and accept my imperfect repentance; make this commemoration available to the confirmation of my faith, the establishment of my hope, and the enlargement of my charity; and make the death of Thy Son JESUS CHRIST effectual to my redemption. Have mercy upon me, and pardon the multitude of my offences. Bless my friends; have mercy upon all men. Support me, by Thy Holy Spirit, in the days of weakness, and at the hour of death; and receive me, at my death, to everlasting happiness, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

The following Meditations and Prayers have no dates in the MS.]

I DID not, this week, labour my preparation so much as I have sometimes done. My mind was not very quiet; and an anxious preparation makes the duty of the day formidable and burdensome. Different methods suit different states of mind, body, and affairs. I rose this day, and prayed, then went to tea, and afterwards composed the Prayer, which I formed with great fluency. I went to church; came in at the Psalms; could not hear the reader in the lessons, but attended the prayers with tranquillity.

To read the New Testament once a year in Greek.

Receiving the Sacrament,

I profess my faith in Jesus.

I declare my resolution to obey Him.

I implore, in the highest act of worship, grace to keep these resolutions.

I hope to rise to a new life this day.

ON the 17th, Mr. Chamier took me away with him from Streatham. I left the servants a guinea for my health, and was content

enough to escape into a house where my birth-day, not being known, could not be mentioned. I sat up till midnight was past, and the day of a new year, a very awful day, began. I prayed to God, [who had safely brought me to the beginning of another year], but could not perfectly recollect the prayer, and supplied it. Such desertions of memory I have always had.

When I rose on the 18th, I think I prayed again, then walked with my friend into his grounds. When I came back, after some time passed in the Library, finding myself oppressed by sleepiness, I retired to my chamber, where, by lying down, and a short imperfect slumber, I was refreshed, and prayed as the night before.

I then dined, and trifled in the parlour and library, and was freed from a scruple about Horace. At last I went to bed, having first composed a prayer.

19. Sunday. I went to church, and attended the service. I found at church a time to use my prayer,—O LORD, have mercy—

July 30.

ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator and Governor of the world, who sendest sickness and restorest health, enable me to consider, with a just sense of Thy mercy, the deliverance which Thou hast lately granted me, and assist by Thy blessing, as is best for me, the means which I shall use for the cure of the disease with which I am now afflicted. Increase my patience, teach me submission to Thy will, and so rule my thoughts and direct my actions, that I may be finally received to everlasting happiness, through JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

ON THE STUDY OF RELIGION.

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, without whose help labour is useless, without whose light search is vain, invigorate my studies, and direct my inquiries, that I may, by due diligence and right discernment, establish myself and others in Thy Holy Faith. Take not, O LORD, Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me; let not

evil thoughts have dominion in my mind. Let me not linger in ignorance, but enlighten and support me, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD. Amen.

O LORD GOD, in whose hand are the wills and affections of men, kindle in my mind holy desires, and repress sinful and corrupt imaginations; enable me to love Thy Commandments, and to desire Thy promises; let me, by Thy protection and influence, so pass through things temporal, as finally not to lose the things eternal; and among the hopes and fears, the pleasures and sorrows, the dangers and deliverances, and all the changes of this life, let my heart be surely fixed, by the help of Thy HOLY SPIRIT, on the everlasting fruition of Thy presence, where true joys are to be found. Grant, O LORD, these petitions. Forgive, O merciful LORD, whatever I have done contrary to Thy laws. Give me such a sense of my wickedness as may produce true contrition and effectual repentance, so that when I shall *be called into another state*, I may be re-

ceived among the sinners to whom sorrow and reformation have obtained pardon, for **JESUS CHRIST'S** sake. Amen.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, whose clemency I now presume to implore, after a long life of carelessness and wickedness, have mercy upon me. I have committed many trespasses; I have neglected many duties. I have done what Thou hast forbidden, and left undone what Thou hast commanded. Forgive, merciful **LORD**, my sins, negligences, and ignorances, and enable me, by Thy **HOLY SPIRIT**, to amend my life according to Thy Holy Word, for **JESUS CHRIST'S** sake. Amen.

O MERCIFUL **GOD**, full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity, who sparest when we deserve punishment, and in Thy wrath thinkest upon mercy; make me earnestly to repent, and heartily to be sorry for all my misdoings; make the re-

membrance so burdensome and painful, that I may flee to Thee with a troubled spirit and a contrite heart; and, O merciful LORD, visit, comfort, and relieve me; cast me not out from Thy presence, and take not Thy HOLY SPIRIT from me, but excite in me true repentance; give me in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and confidence in Thy mercy, and in the world to come life everlasting, for the sake of our LORD and SAVIOUR, Thy Son JESUS CHRIST. Amen.

EJACULATION

Imploring diligence.

O GOD, make me to remember that *the night cometh when no man can work.*

Litchfield:

PRINTED BY T. G. LOMAX, AT "THE JOHNSON'S HEAD."





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